

University of Jordan
Center of Strategic Studies
READING ROOM

Jaruzelski meets Mitterrand

PARIS (AP) — President Francois Mitterrand held controversial talks on Wednesday with Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski that the Polish leader described as "very useful and very sincere." They met for one hour and 20 minutes in Mr. Mitterrand's Elysee Palace, surrounded by exceptionally heavy security, as the opposition-controlled senate suspended business briefly to join widespread protests. Mr. Mitterrand has defended his decision to agree to General Jaruzelski's request for the meeting, a surprise to the French government and Foreign Ministry, as an opportunity to raise questions of union and religious freedom. Heavy police security prevented some 500 demonstrators from marching to the Elysee from the Polish embassy, although a few dozen got near the building individually.

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Prince Hassan, Palme hold talks

STOCKHOLM (Agencies) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, now on a visit to Sweden, held talks with Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme on Wednesday. Prince Hassan and Mr. Palme reviewed Middle East, the situation in general and that in the occupied Arab territories in particular, the Jordanian News Agency, Petra, said. They also discussed cooperation between Jordan and Sweden in economic, scientific and technological fields, it said. During the meeting, Prince Hassan briefed Mr. Palme on Jordan's 1986-1990 five-year plan. Later, an enlarged meeting was held between Prince Hassan and Mr. Palme attended by a Jordanian delegation and senior Swedish government officials. Mr. Palme later hosted a lunch in honour of Prince Hassan and the delegation accompanying him as well as a number of leading Swedish personalities.

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OIC chief due here on Friday

AMMAN (Petra) — Secretary-General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) Shafrudin Pirzadeh is due here on Friday for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. Mr. Pirzadeh will meet with Jordanian officials and discuss matters connected with the OIC. The talks will cover preparations for holding a conference of OIC foreign ministers in Morocco later this month.

Aziz meets Thatcher, Howe

LONDON (AP) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz met with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher on Wednesday, the first of two days of talks in London with British government officials. A statement from Mrs. Thatcher's office said she and Mr. Aziz met for just over 30 minutes. They discussed the Iran-Iraq war and Middle Eastern problems, the statement said. The Foreign Office said Mr. Aziz also met with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe for an hour.

Velayati to visit S. Arabia on Saturday

TEHRAN (R) — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati will visit Saudi Arabia on Saturday, the Iranian news agency IRNA reported Wednesday. "The two foreign ministers will discuss bilateral relations as well as various regional issues," the agency said.

Arab security talks postponed

KUWAIT (R) — Arab interior ministers have postponed talks to have been held in Casablanca this month to discuss a common security plan, the Kuwait News Agency said on Wednesday without giving a reason. It quoted Interior Minister Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmad Al Sabah as saying the meeting, which was also to discuss draft proposals to combat drug trafficking, will be held in February.

U.S. bank bombed in Belgium

ANTWERP (AP) — A powerful bomb blast on Wednesday heavily damaged a downtown branch office of the Bank of America. Police said five women were hospitalized, one with a foot injury, the others suffering from shock. Responsibility for the attack on the U.S. bank was claimed by the Cellules Communistes Combattantes (Fighting Communist Cells) group in a phone call to a local police station and a bank official one minute before the 11:40 a.m. blast.

Iraq reports attacks on Kharg, ship

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq said its warplanes set ablaze targets on Iran's main oil export terminal at Kharg Island and also hit a "large naval target" in the Gulf. A military spokesman said the raid on Kharg, the 46th since mid-August, took place at 0720 GMT, while the naval target — Iraq's usual term for a tanker or cargo ship — was hit 20 minutes later.

Odeh unveils JD 924m draft budget

●Government calls for higher public spending and gives priority to defence and security ● Aim is to revitalise economy through self-reliance ● Stress is on strengthening private, agricultural, industrial and tourism sectors ● JD 37.6m deficit will be covered by reducing expenditure, improved revenue and borrowing

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

THE GOVERNMENT on Wednesday announced Jordan's 1986 national budget which amounts to JD 923.7 million, registering an increase of 12.8 per cent over re-estimated figures of the 1985 budget. The budget projects a deficit of JD 37.6 million, which the government said, will be covered by internal and external loans, and through improving revenues and reducing expenditure.

The figures were announced by the Lower House of Parliament by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh. Dr. Odeh said domestic revenues will cover 88.3 per cent of the estimated expenditure in 1986 against 80.2 per cent during last year. The minister listed allocations in the new budget as follows: defence and security — JD 243.7 million; economic sectors — JD 260.3 million; social and cultural sectors — JD 250.3 million; and finance and administration — JD 169.4 million.

●Bolstering national defence and promoting Jordan's economic sector have been among the priorities given ample attention by the government in preparing the 1986 budget, Dr. Odeh said. He said the government will give due concern to strengthening the Armed Forces, modernising public security and civil defence, and will also go ahead with programmes to build up the People's Army to confront Israeli measures designed to Judaize Arab territories and will maintain assistance to the Arab inhabitants to help their steadfastness in their homeland.

The government is concerned with pursuing all efforts to achieve Arab economic integration, maintaining Jordan's economic credibility and world wide reputation through a unique economic performance and honouring financial commitments, Dr. Odeh said. He said the government will strive to achieve a balance between the production and services sectors, aim to make the country self-reliant in meeting local needs, increase and expand foreign markets for Jordanian products, narrow the existing gap between exports and imports to adjust the balance of trade, enhance the concept of personal initiative and fair competition by giving the private sector a major role to play in creativity and in investment with government support and protection. In addition, Dr. Odeh said, the new budget law provides for completing infrastructure projects, maintaining equitable and fair distribution of developmental gains



Dr. Hanna Odeh to all provinces and sectors and combating poverty and illiteracy everywhere. The government, he said, intends to draw a balance between current expenditure and local revenues through reducing public expenditure as much as possible, developing local revenues and improving methods of tax collection. Dr. Odeh said international, Arab and regional economic developments have made it incumbent on Jordan to adapt to the new world economic situation. For this reason, he said, the government has identified the most pressing problems facing Jordan's economic sectors and has undertaken a number of measures, some of which are designed to find immediate solutions for most pressing problems and others, intended to introduce financial and organisational legislation that can ensure drastic solutions to problems impeding economic development and which eventually will help to shift the country from the stage of adaptation into the stage of recovery. In this context, he added, the government is counting on the private sector in promoting the process of productivity. "Thanks to internal stability and the country's flexible economic policies Jordan now enjoys a convenient investment climate for developing local savings, and also attracting those of Jordanian expatriates," Dr. Odeh said. He said the government has opened

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King, voicing deep love, thanks citizens for sharing joy of his 50th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, in an emotional address to the nation on Wednesday, voiced his deep-felt appreciation and gratitude to the citizens for celebrating his 50th birthday last month. The King said he was deeply touched by the feelings of affection and loyalty displayed by the various sectors of the Jordanian people as expressed in various forms and different celebrations held around the Kingdom. King Hussein said he sends greetings to all members of the Jordanian family and wishes he could meet and shake hands with every individual to express his gratitude for their kindness and their loyalty.



The King said he was overwhelmed by the great love and the great kindness displayed to him by the public, and which, he said, had penetrated his heart and was a blessing to him. The King said that he draws his determination to confront the challenges and his resoluteness to face dangers from God and his people whom, he said, he loved ever since he came into being. Ever since he acceded to the throne, the King said, he has been working relentlessly to safeguard his people's interests and serve the national causes in true faithfulness and conformity with the principles of the Great Arab Revolt which was brought about to achieve freedom and unity for the Arab Nation.

"Over the past years I have always been guided by the concept that we are all working as one family, firm and confident of the future and the inevitable victory of good deed and justice," the King said. The King said he was proud of the Jordanian family's unity and its true commitment to the national causes and services for the coming generations. He said the Jordanian family has been a loyal family for its King and therefore he takes pride in belonging to this family that has been exemplary in exhibiting loyalty and determination to defend the homeland. The King said he was filled with hope on his 50th birthday when he saw his affection for his own people being reflected back to him in the

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan wants Syrian role in peace effort, Murphy tells Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — U.S. envoy Richard Murphy briefed Israeli leaders on Wednesday on his talks in Arab countries and said Jordan wanted Syrian involvement in the Middle East peace process. The U.S. assistant secretary of state told reporters after meeting Israeli Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir that Jordan and Syria were holding an intense dialogue on Middle East peace. "There have been three rounds of contacts between Damascus and Amman recently and there will probably be another round in the near future," Mr. Murphy said, referring to recent meetings between the Jordanian and Syrian prime ministers.

"I think Jordan feels very strongly that Syria should be involved in the peace process," he said. According to a Foreign Ministry official who briefed reporters, Mr. Murphy indicated that His Majesty King Hussein might meet Syrian President Hafez Al Assad in the near future. The official said Shamir expressed Israeli "concern" over Jordan's new links with Syria, contending that Jordanian ties with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Damascus were not conducive to peace. Mr. Murphy earlier met nine Palestinian leaders from the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip at the U.S. consulate in

East Jerusalem, briefing them on the recent superpower summit in Geneva and latest Middle East peace moves, Arab sources said. The nine were: Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, newly-appointed Nablus Mayor Zafar Al Masri, former Gaza Mayor Rashad Shawwa, former Hebron Mayor Mistapha Natche, Nabulus Civic leader Basel Kanaan, local Red Crescent President Azzeddin Al Aryn, Doctor M. Awad of Tul-karem and Hanna Senioria and Mohammad Abu Zulf, editors-in-chief of the Al Fajr and Al Juds newspapers. Mr. Murphy met Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres Tuesday

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14 people, including 2 Israelis, killed in Bekaa battle

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Reports spoke of an Israeli army attack on a Palestinian base in South Lebanon on Wednesday — the second in two days — while police said 14 people, including two Israeli soldiers, were killed in a pitched battle between Israeli troops and Palestinian commandos on Tuesday. Beirut Radio said Israeli soldiers staged Wednesday's raid before dawn on a base of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command (PFLP-GC) in the Rashaya area in eastern Lebanon. But there was no confirmation of the report from independent sources and Israeli sources in Tel Aviv told reporters they did not know anything about the raid.

Wazir: All resistance attacks should have prior approval by PLO council

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has decided, during top-level meetings in Baghdad last week, that all commando attacks inside the Israeli-occupied Arab territories should have prior approval of the PLO Military Council to prevent the recurrence of incidents similar to the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship in October. The deputy military commander of the PLO, Khalil Al Wazir (Abu Jihad), said: "We have decided that any commando attack planned by any Palestinian faction should be discussed and approved by the PLO Military Council."

Mr. Wazir, in an interview with the Jordan Times on Wednesday, explained that the decision was endorsed after lengthy discussion on the negative impacts that the Achille Lauro affair left on the PLO's image. Mr. Wazir said he believed that PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's Cairo Declaration denouncing commando attacks outside Israeli-occupied Arab territories and the Baghdad decision would prevent all incidents similar to the hijacking of Achille Lauro. The Military Council is headed by Mr. Arafat and includes representatives of all PLO factions. The PLO has said that the Achille Lauro was hijacked when four Palestinian fighters, who belong to the Palestine Liberation Front

(PLF), were discovered cleaning their weapons while on their way to Israel to carry out a commando attack in the port of Ashdod. Mr. Wazir said on Wednesday that the Baghdad decision is binding on all Palestinian factions. The problem, however, is that many Palestinian factions which oppose or disagree with Mr. Arafat stopped attending meetings of the PLO Central Council in late 1983. Some factions attended the meetings in early 1984. Mr. Wazir expressed confidence on Wednesday that the message inherent in the Cairo Declaration has reached fighters from dissident factions and that they will comply with it because

(Continued on page 5)

Diverse positions remain in Taba talks

CAIRO (R) — Egyptian and Israeli positions remained far apart as senior officials resumed talks on Wednesday on a three-year-old dispute over the Sinai enclave of Taba. Chief Egyptian delegate Abdul Halim Badawi said he expects a general understanding to emerge from the current round of discussions, delayed for two months by Egypt over the Oct. 1 air raid by Israel on the Tunis headquarters of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). But an Israeli delegate told reporters positions had not changed as negotiators, including legal experts, met for a second day at a hotel near Cairo's Pyramids with U.S. officials sitting in as observers.

Syria pressing for early signing of Lebanon accord

BEIRUT (R) — Syria has resumed its pressure for a far-reaching peace pact in Lebanon and hopes it may be signed by the end of the year, political sources said on Tuesday. They said efforts were under way to revive stalled talks between the three main militias which began in September with the aim of ending nearly 11 years of civil war. A Beirut newspaper simultaneously quoted Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam as saying a draft accord reached by the militias in October "is not dead."

"We are confident that the three factions remain determined to finalise the agreement and move to new stage of peace, security and stability," Mr. Khaddam told the newspaper Al-Jumhouria. The peace drive stalled in early November amid disagreement over the draft, and has been sidelined since fighting between the Progressive Socialist Party (PSP) and Shiite Amal militias threatened to destroy their alliance and upset the power balance in Lebanon. "Syria hopes this agreement will work by the end of the year," the sources said. Other sources also said preparations to resume talks were under way and hinted the pact might be finalised this month. Iran backs Syrian move, page 2

Sharon: Despite spying Israel is an asset to U.S.

TEL AVIV (AP) — Cabinet minister Ariel Sharon, defending Israel's record as a U.S. ally despite a spy scandal, claimed Wednesday that Israel saved the United States \$82 billion in intelligence costs in more than three decades. Israeli officials said U.S. justice department investigators were expected in Israel before the week's end to question three Israelis implicated in the case of Jonathan Jay Pollard, a 31-year-old civilian navy employee charged with selling military documents to Israel (See page 2).

Industry and Trade Minister Sharon, whose close associate Rafael Eitan has been named as a key figure in the affair, said he approved of Israel's apology over the case. "But I think it's also important to know that Israel is not a burden or liability, Israel is an asset," Sharon said in a speech. Sharon, a former defence minister, claimed that Israel has saved the United States \$126 billion in military expenses. He said \$82 billion of that figure was intelligence and information about Soviet weapons systems gleaned from at least three Israeli was against Arab states. Sharon said the United States would have had to spend another \$44 billion to keep an army in the Middle East if Israel were not protecting its interests. He gave no indication of how he reached those figures.

The Israeli military command in Tel Aviv said on Tuesday afternoon its forces killed five PFLP-GC fighters and captured several others in the strike north of Hasbaya, a mainly Druze town in the foothills of Mount Hermon. A PFLP-GC communiqué issued in Damascus conceded five commandos killed and 11 missing in the battle that raged 10 kilometres northeast of Israel's self-designated "security zone" in South Lebanon. The communiqué said many Israeli soldiers were killed or wounded in the assault waged by at least 250 Israeli troops backed by eight tanks and six helicopter gunships. Police said Tuesday's raid was bigger than any of the 13 air strikes Israel mounted against Palestinians and their allies in 1985.

Israeli police say suspects arrested in Shehadeh killing

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police on Wednesday arrested several suspects in the murder of prominent Palestinian lawyer Aziz Shehadeh, stabbed to death outside his home in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah on Monday, military sources said. The suspects were local Palestinians and their motives appeared linked to Mr. Shehadeh's legal and business activities, the sources told Reuters. A radical Palestinian group, the Fateh Revolutionary Council of Sabri Al Banna (Abu Nidal), on Tuesday claimed responsibility in Damascus for Shehadeh's death, calling him a hireling of Israel. The killing was condemned by

Reagan speaks of united U.S.-Soviet defence of earth

FALLSTON, Maryland (Agencies) — President Ronald Reagan said on Wednesday he told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at their Geneva summit that they would quickly join forces and forget their differences if aliens attacked earth from another planet. Mr. Reagan reached into the realm of science fiction in an off-the-cuff remark after addressing students at Fallston High School in Maryland about the summit. In his speech, Mr. Reagan described Mr. Gorbachev as "a determined man but one who is willing to listen" and called on the Kremlin to agree to people-to-people programmes that would open up the closed Soviet society. In his extemporaneous remark, Mr. Reagan said: "I couldn't help but say to him, just think how easy

McFarlane quits as Reagan's adviser

WASHINGTON (AP) — Robert C. McFarlane is quitting as White House national security adviser, President Ronald Reagan said on Wednesday. Speculation on his successor immediately focused on Vice Admiral John M. Poindeux. Mr. McFarlane's deputy on the National Security Council staff. Mr. Reagan was asked after meeting with students at a Maryland high school whether he intended to name Adm. Poindeux and replied: "We'll be having a meeting later today."

Reagan speaks of united U.S.-Soviet defence of earth

his task and mine might be in these meetings that we held if suddenly there was a threat to this world from another species from another planet outside in the universe. "We'd forget all the little local differences that we have between our countries and we would find out once and for all that we really are all human beings here on this earth together."

The president said in his speech that he believed Mr. Gorbachev understood his sincerity when they discussed Mr. Reagan's "Star Wars." Despite the lack of major accords reached on such issues as arms control, Mr. Reagan said Mr. Gorbachev held out "the promise of change" and said he wanted better relations. Press reports have said that Mr. McFarlane resented what he saw as Mr. Reagan's meddling in international affairs, an area which Mr. McFarlane regarded as his bailiwick.

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Malta 'will not extradite' hijacker

VALLETTA (R) — Prime Minister Carmelo Mifsud Bonnici has said Malta would not extradite the surviving hijacker of an Egyptian airliner to Cairo and he had no evidence of Libyan involvement in the Nov. 23 hijack.

In an interview with Reuters, Mr. Mifsud Bonnici also defended his decision not to allow American specialists to take part in a bid to free the hostages.

Three American military advisers accompanied the Egyptian troops who flew to Malta after the Egyptian Boeing 737 was diverted there while on a flight from Athens to Cairo with 98 people on board. American and Maltese officials say the advisers did not take part in the abortive rescue bid.

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici said the United States had advised Malta that Egypt was ready to send troops and had also offered American assistance in any rescue attempt.

But Malta had seen no reason to involve the U.S. although there were American hostages, he said. In view of the fact that the Egyptians had American experts with them "we thought we should not for a number of reasons... accept the request of the Americans."

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici said Malta had received no proof of Libyan involvement from Cairo or any other government. Egypt has said it will publish evidence of Libyan complicity.

He said Malta had contacted Libyan Foreign Minister Ali Tureiki during the hijack and Mr.

Tureiki had denounced the incident and said Libya would not allow the plane to land there.

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici also said that, in the absence of an extradition treaty with Egypt, Malta would not accept Cairo's request to hand over Omar Marzouki, the only survivor of the four hijackers, who is now recovering from wounds in Valletta's St. Luke's Hospital.

He said Malta took the view the crime had been committed on Maltese soil and Maltese law should take its course.

"The hijacker is not an Egyptian and we see no reason to extradite him," the prime minister said. Marzouki has claimed Tunisian nationality but Maltese officials say his identity is still not clear.

Malta decided to authorise the Egyptian commando operation

after seven hostages were shot and dumped on the tarmac.

Five survived their wounds, one was already dead and an Israeli woman pushed out of the plane and shot in the back of the head died in hospital three days ago, officials said.

Mr. Mifsud Bonnici said the American and Egyptian ambassadors as well as Libyan, Greek and Italian officials present during the 22-hour drama had supported Malta's refusal to refuel the plane.

"We could, therefore, not exclude that some sort of intervention would have taken place," he said.

Commenting on press reports that Malta had hindered the arrival of American specialists, he said: "It is not a question of delaying."

"From the start we said 'no, the Americans would not be allowed to intervene'."

U.S. team expected in Israel to probe spy case

TEL AVIV (AP) — U.S. Justice Department investigators will arrive in Israel before the end of the week to question Israelis involved in the case of U.S. Navy intelligence analyst Jonathan Pollard, Israeli officials said Wednesday.

A U.S. embassy spokesman referred inquiries about the report to the Justice Department in Washington, D.C., to return home and act in liaison with the Justice Department team, the officials said.

Hanan Bar-On, deputy director-general of the Foreign Ministry, cut short a visit in Washington, D.C., to return home and act in liaison with the Justice Department team, the officials said.

Bar-On was in Washington to take part in strategic cooperation talks that stem from the signing of an agreement in 1983 to coordinate planning and intelligence.

The U.S. team was expected to be composed of two or three investigators.

Israel Radio said the U.S. team of two or three investigators was to be headed by Justice Department Adviser Abraham D. Sofaer.

As a U.S. district judge, Sofaer presided over industry and Trade Minister Ariel Sharon's unsuccessful libel suit against Time magazine earlier this year in New York.

Israeli officials said the inquiry into the spy case had been completed, but they said Israel's government did not plan to release any information.

The daily Yedioth Ahronoth reported that Israel has agreed to close its scientific liaison office in the Defence Ministry.

The newspaper said the office's closure appeared to be part of a "package deal" arranged between the U.S. and Israeli governments to end the Pollard affair quietly.

Not making public disclosures was seen as a way of avoiding a political crisis in the fragile coalition government and of preventing further strain on relations with the United States, the source of \$4 billion in economic and military aid this year.

An official said Israel's investigation apparently focused on the role of Rafael Eitan, an ex-Mossad spy master and adviser to former Prime Ministers Menachem Begin and Yitzhak Shamir.

ADC urges FBI probe of fire

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The chairman of an Arab-American organisation whose offices were burned last week said Tuesday his group is the target of terrorism and that he will meet with FBI Director William Webster to press for a full FBI investigation.

James Abourezk, a former U.S. senator and chairman of the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), said his group has turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) evidence relating to earlier attacks against his group.

"We are disappointed that the FBI, which entered the previous cases, has not yet chosen to enter this one — even though the latest terrorist act and the ones which preceded it must surely be clearly fall within the FBI's anti-terrorism jurisdiction," Mr. Abourezk said at a news conference.

At a Friday night fire heavily damaged the group's Washington headquarters.

While authorities have said they have not determined the cause, Mr. Abourezk and other Arab-American leaders contend it was deliberately set as part of a pattern of intimidation and violence against Arabs in this country.

Mr. Abourezk said his own investigator saw evidence that gasoline or some other substance was poured on the floor where the fire

began, two floors below the Anti-Discrimination Committee offices.

The Treasury Department's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is investigating the fire, ATF spokesman Tom Hill said results of laboratory analysis were not yet available.

FBI spokesman Lane Bonner said the bureau was watching the ATF investigation but so far had seen no evidence to prompt it to join the probe of the fire. Mr. Webster said Sunday that the FBI would investigate if there was evidence that the fire was a terrorist act.

The FBI is investigating, however, telegrams received by the Anti-Discrimination Committee on Monday, Bonner said. The telegrams claimed responsibility for the fire and purportedly were signed by officials of the extremist Jewish Defence League.

Mr. Abourezk said he did not believe the Jewish Defence League (JDL) was behind the telegrams. JDL national director Fern Rosenblat in New York said her organisation was not responsible.

"I don't think anybody in the JDL is that stupid to sign their name to a telegram admitting to a torching," Abourezk said.

A bomb wounded two police officers at the ADC's Boston, Massachusetts office last August. Another killed an ADC regional leader in his California office last

October.

"I am announcing today that ADC will conduct its own investigation," Abourezk said of the latest incident. "We will not stop until the criminals are brought to justice."

"ADC is preparing a statement denouncing the importation of terrorism into this country, which we will ask all people and groups to sign. We will ask Jewish groups, Black groups, Hispanic groups, religious groups and others, whether minorities or those in the majority, to sign."

"ADC's chapters around the United States, over 60 of them, will be holding solidarity dinners within the next couple of weeks in conjunction with the same kind of groups who are being asked to sign the statement."

"Most importantly, we believe that political leaders around the country have a responsibility to denounce terrorism within the United States."

"Therefore, I am calling on all members of Congress, of the Administration, and city and state political leaders to make the strongest possible public statements letting these criminals know that they will not get approval, either passive or active, from any quarter in this country."

"I have requested of the Judiciary Committees, both in the Senate and in the House, that hearings be held on the issue of domestic terrorism and what is being done about it."

Iran backs Syria's Lebanon accord

TEHRAN (R) — Iran for the first time officially backed Syrian efforts to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war in a joint communiqué issued Wednesday in Tehran and Damascus.

The Iranian side declared its corroboration of the honest efforts of Syria to guarantee the territorial integrity of the Lebanese nation and to return calm and stability to the country. Tehran Radio reported the communiqué as saying.

Although Iran has condemned fighting among Muslim groups in Lebanon, the communiqué was the first official statement backing Syria's efforts to implement an October peace accord among the

Shi'ite Muslim, Druze and Falangist militias.

The joint statement came after a visit to Iran by a high-ranking Syrian delegation headed by Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Khatib.

Diplomatic sources said part of a trade package agreed by the two sides included the resumption of Iranian oil supplies to Syria. Tehran's main Arab ally in its five-year-long war against Iraq (see page 7).

In October, the head of the Iranian Parliament's Foreign Relations Committee had attacked the Syrian-sponsored Lebanon peace talks, saying the "Islamic masses will not be satisfied with

anything less than the rule of the Muslim majority in Lebanon."

Syria is pressing for reforms in the present constitutional system, which gives Falangists a political predominance role.

Mahmoud Nourani, Iran's chargé d'affaires in Beirut, Wednesday met Hassan Hashim, a leader of Lebanon's mainly Shi'ite Muslim Amal militia in the Lebanese capital to discuss the best way to fight the Israelis, the Iranian News Agency IRNA reported.

"The Iranian diplomat stressed the importance of unity among Muslims and a unified Muslim strategy," IRNA said.

Sudanese demand repatriation of Ethiopians

KHARTOUM (AP) — Eastern Sudan officials have asked the government to empty famine-stricken camps in their region by sending refugees home to Ethiopia.

The state-owned newspaper Al-Saba said Wednesday a report from the military governor, Maj. Gen. Mahdi Ali Osman, told Khartoum that the region no longer is capable of caring for the refugees.

It said drought, soaring prices and disease brought in by the refugees have made their continued stay unacceptable.

Hundreds of thousands of Ethiopians fled famine-ravaged lands into Sudan during the past two years, mostly into the eastern portion that itself has suffered severe drought. Thousands more have come to escape fighting in Eritrea and Tigre, Ethiopia's northernmost provinces where long-standing rebellions are in progress.

Relief agencies have cared for the refugees in camps throughout the region.

The regional government report said Prime Minister Ali Gaziouly said the military-backed cabinet should use its improved ties with Addis Ababa to negotiate repatriation of the refugees who fled the Ethiopian famine.

Chinese foreign minister to visit Mideast

PEKING (R) — China's Foreign Minister Wu Nueqin, making a strong bid to boost China's influence in the Middle East, will visit Jordan, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) this month, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

The spokesman, at a regular weekly news briefing, gave no dates for the goodwill visits in middle and late December. He said Mr. Wu would also stop off in Bangladesh.

Western diplomats said Mr. Wu's tour would demonstrate China's interest in Middle-Eastern states which top Chinese officials had not yet visited this year, and emphasise Peking's support for the Palestine Liberation

Organisation (P.L.O.).

Mr. Wu was almost certain to hold talks with Mr. Yasser Arafat and other P.L.O. leaders in either Cairo or Baghdad, but was not expected to launch any new diplomatic initiatives, they added.

"They said his visit to Iraq would show China's neutrality and desire for a negotiated end to the Gulf conflict, redressing the imbalance after a visit to Peking in June by the speaker of Iran's parliament Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani."

China also aims to strengthen its economic links with the Middle East and to consolidate its year-old diplomatic ties with the UAE, a major stepping stone in Peking's efforts to win formal recognition from all the Gulf states.

Western and Asian diplomats said that although Mr. Wu's Middle East tour was mainly a formal affirmation of China's interest in the region, Peking had specific interests there.

Among the six states of the Gulf Cooperation Council, only Oman, the UAE and Kuwait have diplomatic ties with China.

Along with Central America, the Gulf is a key area in China's continuing struggle to wrest official recognition from the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan.

Chinese Vice-Premier Yao Yilin last month toured the UAE, Oman and Kuwait, seeking more economic cooperation, funds for industrial projects and technology for China's hunt for oil.

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18:40	Week's events
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20:00	News in Arabic
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Tel: 774111-19

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsday
08:00	Morning Show
08:30	News Summary
09:00	Morning Show
10:00	Pop Session
11:00	News Summary
12:00	Pop Session Cont.
13:00	Pop Session
13:30	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:30	Instrumentals
14:45	Talking Points
15:00	Concert Hour
15:30	News Summary
16:00	Old Favorites
16:30	25 Years of Rock
17:00	News Summary
17:30	Special Feature
18:00	From the Holy Koran
18:30	Newsday
19:00	Date with a Star
19:30	Evening Show
20:00	Arabic Series

21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show Cont.
21:15	News Summary
21:20	Evening Show Cont.
21:30	News Summary
21:35	Evening Show Cont.
21:40	News Headlines
21:45	Close down

BBC WORLD SERVICE

639, 720, 1413 KHz

06:00	Newsday
06:05	6:05 Financial News
06:35	6:35 Financial News
06:55	6:55 World News
07:00	7:00 World News
07:10	7:10 World News
07:20	7:20 World News
07:30	7:30 World News
07:40	7:40 World News
07:50	7:50 World News
08:00	8:00 World News
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24:00	24:00 World News

VOICE OF AMERICA
MW 1250 & SW 7200, 9563, 11740,
11925 & 15210 KHz

06:00	News
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24:00	News

FOR FRIDAY

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

10:00	Koran
10:30	Children's Programme
11:00	Religious Programme
11:30	Religious Programme
12:00	Arabic Series
12:30	Friday prayer
12:45	Religious Programme
13:00	Safety Programme
13:15	Sport Festival
13:30	Cooking Programme
13:45	Arabic Series
14:00	Local Programme
14:15	Religious Programme
14:30	Religious Programme
14:45	News in Arabic
15:00	Arabic Series

21:30	Tomorrow's Programme
21:40	Viewer's Choice (Arabic)
21:50	News in Arabic

FOREIGN CHANNEL

17:30	French film: Demons les monnes
19:00	News in French
19:15	French Varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
19:45	News in Arabic
20:00	Concert: Sami
20:15	Missing from Home
20:30	News in English
20:45	Maggam

RADIO JORDAN

855 KHz, AM & 99 MHz, FM

& party on 95.60 KHz, SW

07:00	Light Music
07:30	Newsday

WHAT'S GOING ON

TODAY'S EVENTS	624049
Spanish Cultural Centre	639777
Turkish Cultural Centre	661129
Haya Asia Cultural Centre	661181
Hindin Youth City	641793
Y.W.C.A.	664251
Arabian Manshiq Library	656111
University of Jordan Library	843355
EXHIBITIONS	
* Contemporary Egyptian art at Jordan National Museum (until Dec. 10)	
* French exhibition "Litographies de dix siècles" at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 6)	
* An art exhibition by Iraqi artist Dia Al Azawi at the Royal Cultural Centre (until Dec. 10)	
* An exhibition on the French text system "Antique" at 6:30 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre (until Dec. 14)	
* Islamic book exhibition at Yarmouk University's Islamic Centre (until Dec. 11)	
* Soviet art exhibition at the Soviet Cultural Centre (until Dec. 13)	
BAZAAR	
* AWA Christmas bazaar at the American Community Sebati, Friday, Dec. 6 between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
CONCERT	
* Gerhard Maetel and Erika Freiser in a classical concert at 8:00 p.m. Thursday at the Royal Cultural Centre.	
FEATURE FILM	
* "Table for Five" at 7:00 p.m. Thursday at the American Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267	
American Centre Tel. 644371	
American Community Library Tel. 641578	
British Council Tel. 636147-8	
French Cultural Centre Tel. 637009	
Greek Institute Tel. 641993	
Soviet Cultural Centre Tel. 644303	
MUSEUMS	
Felderer Museum: Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also movies from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre. Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 631760.	
Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal' (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (Public and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	
Jordan National Gallery: Contains collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Islamic artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century oriental artists. Maqaret, Jabal Leishan. Opening hours: 10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 630128.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 624590.	
Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Tel. 637446.	
De la Salle Church (Roman Catholic) Tel. 661757.	
Church of the Ascension (Greek Orthodox) Tel. 633341.	
Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Tel. 678906.	
Armenian Catholic Church Amman. Tel. 633341.	
Armenian Orthodox Church Amman. Tel. 633341.	
St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Tel. 671751.	
Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational) meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiah. 671534.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:04 Sunrise	
06:22 Sunrise	
11:26 Dhuhr	
14:12 Asr	
16:28 Maghrib	
17:58 Isha	

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	62224-9 at your service.
This information is supplied by Alfa Info-communication department at the Queen Alia International Airport, Tel. 53200-3, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
09:20 Kuwait (RJ)	
09:40 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)	
09:40 Abu Dhabi (RJ)	
09:40 Agaba (RJ)	
09:40 Khartoum (RJ)	
09:40 Sidi Roze (RJ)	
09:40 Jeddah (RJ)	
09:40 Doha, Beirut (RJ)	
09:40 Dhahran, Riyadh (RJ)	
10:40 Kuwait (RJ)	
10:40 Muscat, Dubai, Beirut, Larnaca (RJ)	
16:15 Rio de Janeiro, Lisbon (JA)	
17:15 Baghdad (JA)	
17:30 Cairo (RJ)	
17:30 London, Belgrade (RJ)	
17:30 Athens (RJ)	
17:30 Amsterdam, Istanbul (KLM)	
21:15 Zurich, Larnaca (RJ)	
21:15 Beirut (RJ)	
21:15 London, Baghdad (BA)	
DEPARTURES	
06:20 Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)	
06:40 Damascus, Athens (OA)	
07:30 Agaba (RJ)	
08:00 Damascus, Paris (AF)	
11:00 Vienna, New York (BA)	
11:30 Athens (RJ)	
12:00 Paris, London (RJ)	
12:15 Brussels, Frankfurt (RJ)	
12:15 Riyadh, Damascus (RJ)	
13:30 Cairo (RJ)	
15:00 Kuwait (RJ)	
15:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK)	
15:40 Beirut (RJ)	
17:30 Baghdad (JA)	
18:30 Kuwait (RJ)	
20:00 Damascus (RJ)	
20:40 Beirut (RJ)	
20:45 London (RJ)	
20:45 Cairo (RJ)	
21:15 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)	
21:30 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)	
08:00 Cairo (BA)	
08:15 London (BA)	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Another increase in temperature is expected with southerly northerly winds. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Low/high temperature in deg.C	
Amman 4/15	
Jerusalem 12/20	
Beirut 12/20	
London 9/15	
Paris 10/15	
Amman 4/15	
Jerusalem 12/20	
Beirut 12/20	
London 9/15	
Paris 10/15	
MONEY EXCHANGE	
Wednesday rates	
Local selling rates in J.S.	
Bahraini dir. 970 980	
Dutch guilder 129.7 130.7	
Egyptian piaster 2071 213	
French franc 47.81 48.2	
Irish dollar 340 350	
Japanese yen (for 100) 180.7 182	
Kuwaiti dinar 1275 1282	
Libyan dinar 21 23	
Omani rial 1067 1075	
Qatari rial 100 103	
Saudi rial 101 103	
Swedish crown 48.1 48.5	
Swiss franc 174.7 176.1	
Syrian lira 29 30	
UAE dirham 100 102	
U.K. sterling pound 547 551.7	
U.S. dollar 368.6 371.7	
W. German mark 145.9 147.1	
REGULAR-LINE SHIPS DOCKING AT AGABA PORT:	
- Al Rayyan	
- Bold Eagle	
- Agaba Crown	
- Khartoum	
- Sidi Roze	
- Jeddah	
- Doha	
- Dhahran	
- Kuwait	
- Muscat, Dubai, Beirut, Larnaca	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
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Low/high temperature in deg.C	
Amman 4/15	
Jerusalem 12/20	
Beirut 12/20	
London 9/15	
Paris 10/15	
Amman 4/15	
Jerusalem 12/20	
Beirut 12/20	
London 9/15	
Paris 10/15	

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

EMERGENCIES

NIGHT DUTY

Amman governorate	891228
Amman civil defence	198, 199
Civil Defence Hqld	271293, 273131
Civil Defence Qweishneh	770733
Ambulance	193, 775111
Amman downtown fire brigade	198
First aid	630341
Blood bank	778303
Civil Defence rescue	661111
Fire headquarters	622090-3
Police rescue	192, 621111, 637777
Police headquarters	639141
Traffic police	896390-1
Electric Power Co.	636381-6, 624881
Municipal water complaints	771225/6
Queen Alia Int. Airport	(08) 5333030

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Rahman Najjar	775050
Dr. Joseph Zuhbi	770560
First pharmacy	661912
Nasrallah pharmacy	636372
Grand Arabian pharmacy	624021
Khamis pharmacy	666411
Al Kawthar pharmacy	656557
Al Hana pharmacy	73798

TAXIS:

Husseini taxi	721776
Chaoudoun taxi	646888
Basant taxi	811057
Ahli taxi	621127
Khayyam taxi	641541
Mashhour taxi	625021

IRBID:

Dr. Mazen Abu Baker	274699
Pelstine pharmacy	(-)
Al Hayak pharmacy	(-)

ZARQA:

Dr. Ghassan Al Fagih	986432
Jerusalem pharmacy	(-)

GENERAL

Hussein Medical Center	813801/352
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	644281/6
Al-Kheib Maternity, J. Amman	642441
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Mallous, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	664714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	645845/5
Al-Musaber Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	666127/3
Al-Ahli, Abdali	666164/6
Al-Jarrah, Al-Madameen	770113
Al-Badrir, J. Ashrafieh	775112/5
Army, Marjeh	891611/7

Jordan Television	773111/19
Radio Jordan	774111/19
Ministry of Tourism	642331
Hotel complaints	666412
Price complaints	661176
Telephone Information	12
Jordan and Middle East cells	10
Overseas cells	10
Repair service	11

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apples	270 / 280
Bananas	300 / 260
Beans (Mukammur)	250 / 220
Beans	250 / 220
Broad beans (green)	700 / 600
Cabbage	140 / 80
Carrot (yellow)	140 / 100
Cauliflower	150 / 80
Chestnuts	750 / 700
Cucumber (large)	100 / 60
Cucumber (small)	240 / 180
Eggplant (large)	100 / 50
Eggplant (small)	180 / 130
Garlic (two leaves)	480 / 400
Grapes (white)	400 / 350

Juvasa	350 / 300
Lemon	30 / 300
Marrow (large)	50 / 30
Marrow (small)	100 / 60
Pepper (green)	320 / 280
Onion (dry)	300 / 250
Okra	350 / 300
Orange (Sha marra)	280 / 220
Orange (Abu Samra)	200 / 160
Apple	80 / 80
Pepper (sweet)	240 / 180
Pepper (hot)	40 / 30
Potatoes	210 / 160
Raddishes	100 / 60
Spinach	100 / 60
Tomatoes	150 / 100

8928	Karwan (RJ)
8929	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
8930	Jeddah (RJ)
8940	Cairo (RJ)
8945	Amman (RJ)
8946	Damascus (RJ)
1245	Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ)
1246	Kuwait (RJ)
1518	Jeddah (RJ)
1519	Lamaca (RJ)
1520	Cairo (RJ)
1738	New York, Vienna (RJ)
1739	London, Paris (RJ)
1845	Athens, Damascus (CA)
1846	Frankfurt (RJ)
1928	Istanbul (RJ)
1929	Baghdad (RJ)
2635	Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
6135	Baghdad (RJ)
6136	Beirute, Istanbul (RJ)

8928	Agaba (RJ)
8929	Cairo (RJ)
1125	Amman, New York (RJ)
1126	Vienna, Chicago, Los Ang. (RJ)
1245	Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
1246	Istanbul (RJ)
1345	Lamaca, Zurich (RJ)
1346	Amman (RJ)
1347	Doha, Muscat (RJ)
1348	Cairo (RJ)
1520	Kuwait (RJ)
1521	Baghdad (RJ)
1928	Amman (RJ)
1929	Baghdad (RJ)
1930	Damascus (RJ)
1945	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
1946	Dubai, Kuwait (RJ)
2135	Cairo (RJ)
2136	Abu Dhabi (RJ)

DEPARTURES

NEWS IN BRIEF

Lebanese speaker cables Lawzi

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi has received a cable of thanks from Speaker of the Lebanese Lower House of Parliament Hussein Al Hussein in reply to a congratulatory cable which Mr. Lawzi sent to him on his re-election as speaker of the Lebanese Lower House of Parliament.

Women's club extends legal services

AMMAN (Petra) — The Amman Club for Business and Professional Women Consultative Office has extended its services to Jordanian women and will now cover legal consultations and the appointment of advocates on behalf of women requiring legal services, the office's director Mrs. Buthaina Jardaneh has announced. The new service will be free of charge for women who cannot afford to pay while it will be offered at nominal charges to others. Mrs. Jardaneh added, she also said that the club has made arrangements for a psychiatrist to provide free medical advice every Sunday evening.

Masri hosts lunch for Australian envoy

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri Wednesday hosted a lunch banquet at the Intercontinental Hotel in honour of Australian Ambassador Richard Gate to mark the end of his term as his country's envoy to Jordan. Mr. Masri commended the role played by Mr. Gate in bolstering Jordanian-Australian relations and Mr. Gate praised the developments Jordan has achieved in all fields.

Amin chairs advisory council meeting

IRBID (Petra) — Irbid Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin Wednesday chaired the meeting of the national advisory council which reviewed the Irbid regional development plan, social services and infrastructure projects. During the meeting council for the Irbid region and its development was also formed with the governor as chairman.

French centre to host puppet festival

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of Minister of Information, Culture, Tourism and Antiquities, Mohammad Al Khattab, the Haya Arts Centre and the French Cultural Centre in cooperation with the Department of Arts and Culture will present a puppet festival, play, an exhibition of French and Jordanian puppets and a puppet workshop for children. The puppet festival will take place from Dec. 7 to 12 at the French Cultural Centre. There will also be special performances for schools.

Society to hold charity event for liver patients

By Olga Mikhail
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Society for the Friends of Liver Patients will hold a fund raising Turkish show on Thursday at the Intercontinental Hotel for the benefit of liver patients in Jordan. The show will include fashion shows, belly dancing, genuine Turkish songs and music to be presented by a Turkish group including four famous professional singers, belly dancers and models.

In a press conference held Tuesday, Mrs. Souhair Asfour, vice president of the society, explained that the society which was established in May 1984, is embarking on a new project to cater for patients with liver diseases. She said that such diseases are becoming a major health problem in Jordan and that the society was formed on the initiative of volunteer doctors who were aware of the magnitude of the problem.

To date, the society has helped 25 different families carrying liver disease, and it is currently conducting surveys and studies and holding seminars on subjects related to liver diseases.

Mrs. Asfour explained that the main aim of the society is to establish a national centre for liver diseases. The society, she added, is also trying to increase public awareness and knowledge about liver diseases and its serious complications.

Dr. Sami Kharma, a gastro-intestinal and liver specialist, said that there are three main kinds of hepatitis viruses: hepatitis A, hepatitis B and non A-non B. Hepatitis B, he said, is the most chronic virus which may lead to cirrhosis and cancer of the liver and usually affects young people.

High percentage of carriers in Jordan

Dr. Kharma explained that the

study conducted in Jordan revealed that ten per cent of the people carry the virus hepatitis B while in the west only 0.1 per cent of the population carry this virus.

Dr. Kharma went on to say that hepatitis B can be treated with a new vaccine but that it is very expensive and not mass produced. "However, we need to categorise the cases in order to vaccinate the high-risk groups which include people working in hospitals, pregnant mothers, new-born infants and people who are on dialysis machines," he said.

Dr. Ziad Sharaiha, a liver specialist, explained that the virus can be transmitted through blood transfusions, saliva, sexual intercourse, transmission from mother to new-born infants and by close contact with hepatitis B carriers. Dr. Sharaiha continued that 70 per cent of liver patients in Jordan carry the chronic type of hepatitis B.

He highlighted the major problems as the lack of knowledge and interest in the pattern of liver diseases in Jordan and the lack of information available to the public regarding liver diseases and their causes.

Malnutrition

Various medical studies also revealed that malnutrition is the most common cause of liver disease, particularly in poor areas where people are prone to infection as they lack the means for specialised attention and hygiene.

Mr. Hussein Al Devran, director of the Turkish Product exhibition in Amman, introduced the Turkish artists and highlighted the main sections of the show which will include Turkish songs and dancing, a Turkish fashion show in addition to a fashion show displaying new designs by Bassem Sheikh Jawad.

Nsour, Somali minister review bilateral cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Somali Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Mohammad Ali Mahmoud conferred here Wednesday with Minister of Planning Abdullah Nsour.

They discussed economic cooperation between Jordan and Somalia, especially in trade and the training of Somali personnel in Jordan and providing Jordanian expertise for Somalia.

The Somali minister said that his country would be interested in a Jordanian delegation paying a visit to Somalia to discuss areas of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Nsour expressed Jordan's total readiness to offer every possible assistance to Somalia and to enhance bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Dr. Nsour also briefed the Somali minister on Jordan's economic experience and presented a general outline of the 1986-1990 five year development plan which provides for cooperation between Jordan and other Arab countries in economic fields.

Trade talks

Earlier the visiting Somali minister conferred with Mr. Hamdi Tabba'a, president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce. They discussed ways of developing trade between Somalia and Jordan and the prospect of launching joint ventures involving the private sectors from both countries.

The minister extended an invitation to Mr. Tabba'a to visit Somalia at the head of an economic delegation in the coming year in order to follow up on talks regarding economic issues of common interest to Jordan and Somalia.

The Somali minister, who arrived here on Monday, was received by His Majesty King Hussein on Tuesday and delivered a message from Somali President Mohammad Ziad Barre.

Classical music treat tonight

By Jean Claude Elias
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Christmas time is often as important for adults as it is for children, although the former may often deny it and this year there is a special treat for music lovers in the form of two exceptional musicians from West Germany who will present a classical music concert at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman on Thursday Dec. 5, at 8:00 p.m.

The recital, organised by the Goethe Institute in Amman, in cooperation with the Beirut University College Alumni Club and Luftansa, the German Airlines, will feature Gerhard Mantel on violin and Erika Frieser on piano.

The selected programme is classical among the classical since it includes works by L.V. Beethoven, F. Schubert, C. Debussy and R. Strauss. This should come as a relief for those who were not able to adapt to some modern or intellectual forms of music.



PEOPLE'S ARMY: The Balqa District commander of the People's Army distributes certificates on Wednesday to female students who successfully completed the training course of the army. The commander delivered a speech during the ceremony in which he urged the graduates to work hard. The graduates presented a display of various skills including first-aid, fire-fighting, shooting and dismantling and reassembling weapons (Petra photo)

Cabinet decision on investments will help financial market, director says

AMMAN (J.T.) — A cabinet decision issued Monday to set up two investment companies which will act as agents and market developers in the financial market and to allow banks and financial companies to grant loans for the purpose of investments in Jordanian securities is primarily intended to solve problems which have affected the Amman Financial Market (AFM) and its performance. AFM Director Hashem Al Sabbagh said in a statement to the press published Wednesday.

He said that the AFM has been hit by the current world economic recession which also affected all parts of the Middle East. He said that the two projected companies are bound to help the AFM's liquidity, essential for buying and selling of stocks and shares and conducting other financial or stock exchange operations.

Commenting on the decision and its prospective beneficial impact on the economy in general and the AFM's operations in particular, Dr. Sabbagh said the cabinet has empowered commercial banks and financial companies to offer credit facilities and to grant loans which could be used to purchase shares and stocks and which would also provide an essential tool for promoting Jordanian industry.

He said that the decision was

deemed necessary in order to make available sufficient funds for Jordanian industries and businesses and is therefore considered a helpful and constructive step in this direction. The cabinet's decision made it clear that loans can now be obtained for the purpose of investment in Jordanian securities but also pointed out that investments by individuals will be safeguarded. Dr. Sabbagh stressed.

Banks and financial companies will from now on be able to help develop individual savings through their own investments in various schemes and industries provided such savings and funds are regarded as trust accounts and treated as such, Dr. Sabbagh explained.

Dr. Sabbagh said the decision will enable non-Jordanian Arab institutions and funds to invest in Jordanian securities which, he added, could in turn pave the way for more and easier in-flow of cash

for investments in Jordanian securities and eventually in to Jordanian projects.

Dr. Sabbagh added that the decision aims to help revive investments in shares and stocks that feed industries and other businesses by providing the necessary cash. He said it is also designed to organise the work of agents, acting for share holders, and operating in the AFM and dealing in shares and stocks and that the decision will ensure the rights of investors by organising a method for distributing dividends and ensuring the rights of investors in general assembly meetings of their companies. He noted that the decision would also open the door for non-Jordanian Arab investors to help develop the financial market and Jordanian national projects.

In addition, he said, the cabinet decision is likely to help stabilise prices in Jordan and will therefore encourage further investment in Jordanian stocks and shares.

Czech delegation visits Yarmouk

IRBID (Petra) — A delegation from Czechoslovak universities Wednesday visited Yarmouk University where they were briefed on its development and future plans.

The delegation, which is paying

a week-long visit to the university, is expected to sign an agreement covering cooperation in medicine, engineering and agriculture. The delegation will also tour archaeological sites in the Jordan Valley, Jerash and Petra.

Licences required for cultural centres, private schools and hospitals

AMMAN (Petra) — All cultural centres, private schools — including kindergartens — and private hospitals and companies will be required to obtain licences for their activities from Amman municipality, according to an announcement made on Wednesday. Director of the Licence Department at the municipality Mahmoud Armouti said the new regulation will categorise the cultural centres under different specifications and private schools will come under the same category as

trade institutes. He added that private hospitals will be considered as first class hotels for licensing purposes. The object of the new regulation is to facilitate the allocation of licences and the fees to be paid for the category in question, Mr. Armouti said.

He said the new regulation will be effective as of the beginning of 1986 and added that owners of the aforementioned establishment should obtain or renew their licences before January of next year.

Egyptian minister leaves after labour, employment discussions

AMMAN (Petra) — Egyptian Minister of State for Immigration and Egyptian Expatriates William Najib Seifein left Amman for Baghdad Tuesday evening at the conclusion of his three-day official visit to Jordan. During his stay the minister met with Prime Minister Zaid Al Rifai and the ministers of labour and interior. The Egyptian minister held talks with senior Jordanian officials on ways of supporting and strengthening bilateral relations in the field of organising workers employment.

He also met with the representatives of the Egyptian community in Jordan and encouraged them to contribute to Egyptian development projects.

In a departure statement, Mr. Seifein said that he learned through his meetings with representatives of the Egyptian community in Amman that they

are living among their brothers in Jordan and are receiving good care from all Jordanian officials and citizens.

He also expressed his pleasure that Egyptian expatriates living in Jordan and other countries are contributing to the development of these countries and that they are able to also contribute towards financing development projects in Egypt.

The minister also pointed out that an Egyptian committee has been formed under the chairmanship of Egyptian ambassador in Amman to coordinate the efforts of Egyptians working in Jordan in order to achieve these goals and he added that an account has been opened at the Arab Land Bank to enable Egyptians to remit their savings.

Mr. Seifein was seen off by Minister of Labour.

Regional symposium on water supply, environment concludes

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day regional symposium on improving water supplies and the environment ended in Amman Wednesday. In their final statement delegates stressed the importance of local communities and population settlements participating in the development of water resources, sanitation and the environment. Participants also urged planners and decision-makers to involve such communities in the preparation of future projects.

The statement called on governments to step up programmes for spreading health services and health awareness programmes in both rural and urban regions. During the symposium, which was organised by the Health Ministry and the World Health Organisation (WHO), the delegates reviewed several working papers on the development of water resources and the environment and discussed experiences of participating countries in this field.

Eight countries from the Mediterranean region along with representatives from regional and international organisations took part in the symposium.

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By Franz Schürmann

VIEW FROM AMERICA

Post-Geneva world: People vie for the money

SAN FRANCISCO — As the world is assessing the much-publicised Geneva summit, it is well to look at economic trends in the U.S. They will have a profound effect on the kind of world that will be shaped by what is being called a new détente between the U.S. and the Soviet Union by some political observers in this country.

In mid-November, the American stock market went up and up. At first stock market observers thought it was just a one-day rise. But it continued day after day. Then it slowed down. The newspapers were full of speculation as to what it meant. Was it the beginning of a new optimism about the economy? Or was it the last breath of optimism before a new pessimism set in?

The movements of the stock market remain as un-

redictable as ever, but the basic outlines of American economic policy have become quite clear. Last July, the Federal Reserve Board (the "Fed") decided on a new policy towards monetary growth. It was called "accommodative." The word simply meant that the Fed would allow the money supply to grow without trying to restrain its growth through rises in the "prime" discount rate. The purpose of that policy shift was to stimulate the sluggish American economy.

In September, the U.S. made another major economic move. In concert with the other big economic powers, it decided to drive the value of the dollar on currency markets down and down. And the dollar's value has gone down and down, reaching its lowest point in many years.

And in October, in Seoul, Korea, Treasury Secretary James Baker announced a new U.S. policy of encouraging new bank loans to developing countries. He set a figure of \$20 thousand million (a figure which, interestingly enough, had originally been worked out by the Chairman of the Fed, Paul Volcker).

Thus the three-fold aim of these moves is: (1) to stimulate growth in the U.S. economy, (2) to stimulate U.S. exports, and (3) to re-stimulate growth in the developing countries.

The danger that all the economic policy-makers are aware of is: inflation. Will it reappear as the money supply keeps on growing? In November, the Commerce Department released figures indicating that there had been an unusually sharp jump in some

prices. Does that mean anything? One of America's leading "monetarist" economists, Milton Friedman, thinks that inflation will re-appear in 1986.

Oil prices are low. This helps keep inflation down. Wage increases have been modest. This too helps keep inflation down. Bond prices have been falling in the U.S. This suggests that fear of inflation re-appearing is also down. These are the classic signs of healthy economic growth. Yet the worry is there.

How does all this affect the Middle East? If oil prices remain low, then obviously this means less money for the oil producers. But if world demand for oil should go up again, this could mean higher oil prices and higher oil revenues.

But cash flows are just one of the problems. For years the

favourite instrument used by the U.S. to solve international problems has been money. It is an instrument which the Saudis also have learned to use well and cleverly. More cash in the money supply will also mean more cash for the Middle East.

The U.S. clearly wants to get some sort of peace negotiations going between Jordan and Israel. The U.S. coldness towards the PLO pleases the Israelis, but the Israeli economy needs huge sums of American money to get out of its difficulties. Lebanon will need money to rebuild. Egypt always needs lots of money. The U.S. will be ready and willing to offer the money if those nations decide to join a "peace process."

The Soviet Union too needs financial and economic inputs. During détente in the early

1970's, the Soviets received loans, technology, grants from the West. It greatly helped them. They want the same again. Would the Soviets be willing to make some concessions on Afghanistan in return for a new détente? And would they be willing to recognise Israel and diminish their support of the PLO? We shall see.

The U.S. is the heart and core of the world economy. For many years it has played a passive role in the world economy. Under Nixon, especially his treasury Secretary, John Connolly, the U.S. played a very active role. Now there is a new and powerful Treasury Secretary, James Baker. Both are Texans, who are people noted for their daring, their risk-taking. They have decided to take some big risks.

Step to revitalise economy

BECAUSE the size of the 1986 budget, which was unveiled by Finance Minister Hanna Odeh to the Lower House of Parliament yesterday, is 12.8 per cent greater than that of the re-estimated 1985 budget, we have a good reason to believe that the government's top priority is shifting towards revitalising the economy, rather than continuing with the policy of adaptation to the economic difficulties that this country has passed through.

The shift is evident in the higher public spending which has been called for and in continuing to support public projects in order to overcome their financial problems.

According to the new budget, higher public spending and the increase in defence and security allocations (18.4 per cent on 1985) will be covered by greater internal revenue (14.6 per cent on 1985), greater Arab and foreign aid (nearly 30 per cent on 1985), greater deficit (from JD 16.7m to JD 37.6m), cut in fuel subsidies (from JD 25m in 1985 to JD 5m in 1986) and partly through borrowing.

How internal revenue is expected to rise in the absence of raising taxes and following the wave of tax exemptions that we have witnessed recently is a question that has to be answered in the coming year. So is the question of the projected increase in Arab and foreign aid. Still, there are plans in the budget which, if properly carried out, can provide some of the answers and clarifications to these questions and others.

Dr. Odeh did in fact mention these plans in his address to Parliament. Among them are the stress on the private sector and its role in raising productivity in the country and also the intention to improve the performance of the public sector while reducing costs to a bare minimum.

Modernising legislation to improve the climate for investment and strengthening both the agricultural and industrial and tourism sectors are other important factors that can contribute to revitalising the economy and putting it back on the right track for continued development and progress.

In preparing and presenting a record budget to Parliament, the government has made every serious effort and fully shouldered its responsibility towards the well-being of this country and its citizens. For this we are grateful and supportive, and we look forward to a lively debate on the best ways and means to approve and implement the draft budget.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Under the King's guidance

JORDAN under the guidance and directives of King Hussein succeeded in making 1985 a year of Palestine in all international forums. This country which realises the dangers threatening the Arab nation has succeeded in moves to revive in the minds of the whole world the sufferings of the Palestinian people and the situation in the Middle East. Jordan has succeeded in pointing out Israel's continued drive to Judaize the Arab territory of Palestine and to pursue a policy of driving the legitimate owners of the land out of their property, confiscating it for more Jewish settlements. Through the Jordan-PLO accord signed in Amman on Feb. 11, Jordan has succeeded in bringing the Palestine question once again to the fore and to make the world realise the dimension of the tragedy of the Palestinian people. The Middle East question in general and the Palestine issue in particular have become the focal point of international discussions and the main topic for Arab summit meetings. The wise policies of King Hussein and his directives designed to serve national causes received total backing and support by the Lower House of Parliament which sent a cable to the King voicing the deputies' backing for his endeavours to bring about solidarity among Arab countries and fulfil the aspirations of the Palestinian people.

Al Dustour: The U.N. and Palestine

THE United Nations General Assembly is currently debating the Palestine question in the light of a report submitted to it by the U.N. Secretary General. But this time the assembly is considering proposals in the report which call for the convening of an international conference under U.N. auspices to resolve the Palestine question. This question is important for the whole world, and since 1947 it has acquired the attention and interest of many nations, a fact that is reflected in the assembly's voting that takes place over the issue every year. This is because the whole world has come to realise that the Palestinians have a just cause and that they are carrying the struggle everywhere for the sake of regaining their rights. This important status of the Palestine question offers the Arab countries a precious chance to further isolate the United States and Israel at the United Nations and to bring pressure against Washington to make it change its stand. No matter how hard Washington and Tel Aviv work to minimise the importance of the current debate, the world nations involved in it will continue to express their views frankly, and will continue to voice support for the displaced people and for their right to self-determination.

Sawt Al Shaab: Iran's unholy war

REPORTS from the Gulf war front indicate that Iran is continuing to mass troops along the border with Iraq with the intention of launching another offensive. The Iranian leaders do not conceal the fact about the massing of troops and other preparations, and they say that they are prepared to send three million people to the front in order to pursue the war and to fight in the form of human waves with the hope of achieving success. But success will not come because it is based on the concept of aggression, and all that Iran will gain is more sufferings and more tragedies for its peoples. The longer the war lasts the more victims there will be and the more destruction will be caused to Iran's economy. The coming offensive if it comes, will form a massacre of untold dimensions. For more than five years the Islamic world has been plagued by the evil intentions of the Iranian rulers who have opted to refuse peace and reconciliation and who have chosen to cause more bloodshed for their people. This war will no doubt bring a disaster to the Iranian people but will not divert the Arab people's attention from the Zionist enemy and its plots against our nation.

(Continued from page 1)

The government is presently occupied in trying to introduce new economic and financial legislation which are capable of increasing Jordan's investment potentials. Other investment opportunities are also being created through upgrading the efficiency of the government's administrative systems by introducing modern technologies.

The government, in cooperation with the private sector, is working to draw up a national and comprehensive strategy capable of curbing the high rate of unemployment. This plan aims at taking immediate steps to allow the largest number of Jordan's manpower to find jobs, and to maintain the number of unemployed within acceptable limits.

In order to maintain strong ties and open channels with Jordanian expatriates the government decided to sponsor the first Jordanian Expatriates Conference, held last July, in the beginning of what will be annual tradition.

The 1986 draft budget is essentially an extension of this year's policies in all sectors, including agriculture, industry, water and irrigation, energy, construction, tourism, transportation and services.

First, agriculture: Since food security constitutes one of the bases of maintaining our independence and a sound economy the government has given special attention to this sector to guarantee an efficient exploitation of local agricultural resources, to achieve the maximum self-sufficiency possible, and to increase the revenues of agricultural investments. To achieve its goals the government has taken the following decisions:

1- To exempt the farmers who have paid back their debts to agricultural credit institutions from the interest payments due on them for the year 1985.

2- To offer needed support for the local production of cereals, fodder and other agricultural products through buying the output at profitable and fixed prices. The government will also keep a strategic reserve of these products. JD 11 million was allocated in the 1986 budget for subsidy of bread in accordance with the government policy of supporting the price of this staple good.

3- To reassess the financial structure of the Agricultural Marketing and Processing Company of Jordan to help the company overcome its current problems.

4- To start coordinating agricultural production in the areas of Shaffa and the Jordan Valley in order to strike a balance between the needs of the local market and the possibilities of exporting agricultural products and to guarantee a profitable income for both the farmer and the national economy.

5- To launch land reclamation and development projects in the eastern and southern areas through renting state-owned lands to the private sector in return for symbolic rents with the aim of constructing farms for cereal, fodder, and cattle production.

6- To begin implementing the Zarqa Basin Development Project which aims at protecting the soil and the environment, modernising agricultural cropping patterns, and developing forestry. To develop agriculture in the highlands in all parts of the Kingdom through direct investments, research, orientation, and training projects.

7- To take the necessary steps to start a comprehensive land survey in all areas in the Kingdom in order to specify the soil quality and the most efficient patterns to exploit lands for agricultural purposes.

Second, industry: The government has already made large strides in developing local industry. It has offered protection to some of the industries producing products which meet Jordanian standards. The government is serious in applying these standards so that its production of infant industries will not

be at the expense of the consumers, who expect good quality and reasonable prices.

At the same time it has encouraged exports of goods by offering exemptions, financial credits on easy terms and by simplifying export procedures.

The government is working to increase the marketing of local products by signing complementary deals and bilateral agreements with different countries. The government anticipates that the trade sector will also play its needed role in marketing local industrial products.

As for the extraction industries which constitute the backbone of national exports and enhance the Kingdom's revenues of foreign currencies, the production and exports of phosphate, potash, fertilisers and cement has increased substantially. But due to the decline of international prices of these products some of Jordan's extraction industries are facing financial difficulties and consequently the government moved swiftly to study these industries in order to take the necessary steps to overcome these difficulties and to secure the necessary funding to revive and boost these industries.

And in order to regulate and strengthen the structure of the industrial sector the government has encouraged the merger of identical and integrating industries in order to raise their efficiency and to make use of the abundance of large industrial enterprises to employ the best modern techniques and to avoid duplication of effort.

Third, water: The government pays great attention to water as a vital and basic element of survival and development. Therefore it gives priority to water projects because they are relevant to man and the social and economic sectors.

The government has taken the following decisions related to the plans to regulate the use of water resources:

1- To promptly start to collect all available studies on water in Jordan and to begin studies on the areas which were not included in the previous research in order to prepare a water budget for a national water policy that will apply beyond the year 2000. This budget will define the usage of water for agricultural, industrial and domestic purposes.

2- To carry out detailed studies needed to construct a network of storage dams in the different areas of the Kingdom and to intensify modern irrigation techniques.

3- To complete the construction of sewerage projects and water filtering stations in many areas of the country starting with the densely populated areas as part of public hygiene and health care.

4- To start the operation of Deir Alla-Amman pumping station to pump drinking water to the Greater Amman area.

5- To make studies on the water networks in the major cities in the country and to raise its efficiency in order to limit the amount of water wasted.

Fourth, energy: The most important feature of this sector is the fact that Jordan imports all of its energy needs, which constitute 20 per cent of all national imports. This dependence on imports has compelled the government to take the necessary steps to decrease the volume of the energy imports.

1- To continue the national plans to explore oil in the Hamzah Basin and other areas and to open the door for foreign companies to work in the exploration field.

2- To complete the study on conserving energy for big industries and to implement its recommendations in order to save fuel, and to co-ordinate implementing plans to rationalise the consumption of fuel in general. Initial statistics indicate a clear decline in electricity and fuel consumption rates for 1985.

3- To go ahead with the studies on oil shale and to begin the sec-

ond stage of industrial experiments and to focus attention on alternative energy sources like solar energy, coal and geothermal energy.

Moreover the government will work on increasing the efficiency of fuel and gas transportation to ensure public security.

Light fuel products will be pumped through pipelines from the oil refinery to urban areas while new gas bottling stations will be constructed in the northern and central areas.

It is worth mentioning that the volume of the fuel subsidies reached JD 25 million in 1985 while JD 5 million is allocated for fuel subsidies in 1986 due to the decline of the exchange price of the American dollar and forecasts of a decline in oil prices.

As for electricity, work has continued to complete the construction of projects extending electricity to rural areas. Electricity service is expected to reach 93 per cent of the populated areas by the end of this year. The government has also begun to implement street lighting projects in Amman and has exempted, according to Royal instruction, the village and town municipalities from the expense of lighting roads main squares within their boundaries.

Fifth, construction: The government has paid special attention to this sector since it is interrelated with the other sectors, and because it generates savings and employment. Therefore, the government has worked to support and protect the Jordanian construction industry and to favour them over foreign contractors. It will also work to complete the unification of regulatory laws in government organs and institutions.

The contractors were exempted from income taxes on all the profits they make from selling real estate while 50 per cent of their rents outside the governorate of Amman and 35 per cent of their rents inside Amman were also exempted from the income tax.

The transfer of a property financed by corporations and companies which do not charge interest was also exempted from the registration fees.

The government will encourage the founding of real estate investment companies to develop lands and extend services to them.

The 1986 draft budget includes a number of main roads, and agricultural and village road projects. Important steps also have been taken to develop housing projects.

The government has merged the urban development department into the Housing Corporation in order to expand its projects in all areas of the country. Necessary measures have been taken in order to complete Abu Nsir Housing Project by the end of 1986, while the government plans to expand its employee and low income citizens housing projects.

An amount of JD 9.6 million was allocated to housing projects in the 1986 draft budget.

Six, transport: In view of Jordan's central position in the Arab World and due to the country's importance as a centre for transit and travel among Arab countries, the government has given due care and concern to the transport sector to enable it to play its significant role domestically and regionally.

The Jordanian government has allowed truck-owners to increase their axle weights and loads by reasonable margins and to pay customs fees for trucks registered abroad and owned by Jordanians in instalments.

The Ports Corporation has embarked on the construction of quays that would help the country to carry out export and import operations of oil and chemical products, and the building of a number of specialised quays for importing coal required by the Aqaba thermal power station.

Also measures have been taken for raising the efficiency of Jordanian railways and modernising their workshops. Jordanian airports will be provided with modern equipment to enhance their air safety operations.

Seven, tourism: Since Jordan contains numerous tourist attractions, and in view of the importance of the tourist industry in the development process and in supporting the balance of payments, the government has embarked on a comprehensive study of tourism in Jordan with the purpose of identifying activities involved in tourism and overcoming obstacles impeding their development.

The government will concentrate attention on promoting domestic tourism to help stop the attrition of foreign currency through spending vacations abroad.

The government will also focus attention on marketing Jordanian tourist attractions abroad either through its own efforts or in cooperation with Arab countries. I would like to refer to the central role which the private sector in Jordan can play in this respect and in improving the quality of services at Jordanian tourist attractions to encourage domestic tourism, and it will also introduce measures for handling visits by tourist groups.

The government will introduce laws and legislation aimed at encouraging investments in the tourism industry and improving tourist facilities. The government has allocated JD 1 million for this endeavour in the new fiscal budget.

Others services: In the field of public health, the budget includes allocations to increase the number of medical clinics, health centres to cover most population centres, and to further expand existing hospitals.

The government has done its utmost to provide the financing for schools in the Kingdom through allocations from the budget

and loans. The secondary phase entry test was also adopted to achieve a balance between academic and professional needs. The Ministry of Higher Education was established to cope with the current and future needs of the society.

To encourage and expedite the process of adjustment with the latest technological methods in the various fields of education, the government has decided to exempt computers from custom fees. And to provide means to develop the Jordanian youth's physical abilities, special funds were allocated to build sports complexes. There is also a focus on culture and its dissemination to the various sectors of the society. Work is also under way to develop telecommunications as well as postal services.

In accordance with Royal directives, the government is expanding the implementation of a decentralisation policy through changes in the administrative divisions, in proportion to the population's distribution.

In order to ensure higher standards of living in the Kingdom, the government has established a national aid fund by allocating JD 1.5 million in next year's budget. The government will continue to support welfare societies and to contribute to implementing projects in this area.

The government is concerned to continue supporting the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs to cover its current expenditure and to enable it build and preserve mosques and other waqf real estate. The budget allocated JD 8.2 million for this purpose.

Joint Arab action: Jordan has set its national course which is represented by the call for inter-Arab reconciliation in the aim of achieving Arab solidarity. As a practical expression of this will, the government has forged agreements with several

Arab countries to support the integration policy and established joint ventures with Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Oman. A Jordanian-Egyptian-Iraqi company to tie the three capitals together through the Aqaba port and Jabous port in Egypt has been formed, and can be joined by any other Arab country.

There is also a plan to include Egypt in the Jordanian-Iraqi Land Transport company. Joint committees between Jordan and Syria were also revived.

The 1986 budget allocated funds for projects that were not financed in the last two years. The government also did not include local and foreign loans in the revenues as in previous years. The draft budget for public institutions will be presented by the government to the parliament as issued with the Kingdom's budget.

The estimated deficit in the draft budget is JD 37.6 million — 4.8 per cent of total revenues. This deficit will be covered through control over expenditure and improvement of revenues from local and foreign loans. Local revenues will cover 88.2 per cent of current expenditure, against 80.2 per cent in last year.

The allocation for 1986 were distributed as follows:

	JD (Million)
Defence and Security	243.7
Economy	260.3
Social and cultural sector	250.3
Administration and finance	169.4
Total	923.7

The draft budget included JD 44.4 million in subsidy for various institutions. Out of this amount JD 16.9 million went to support current expenditure and JD 31.5 million to capital expenditure. Estimated budget for public institutions exceeded JD 500 million. Adding it to the budget, the general expenditure will reach about JD 1,423.7 million in 1986.

(Continued on page 5)

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Odeh unveils draft budget

(Continued from page 4)

The House thanked Saudi Arabia for its continued financial assistance to Jordan. It also thanked Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar for their support as part of their financial commitments in accordance with the 1978 Baghdad Arab summit resolutions.

Following is the full text of Dr. Odeh's speech in Parliament on Wednesday:

I present herewith Jordan's 1986 draft budget based on the principles outlined in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of appointment to Prime Minister Zaid Rifai's cabinet and in the King's address from the throne at the opening of Parliament's third ordinary session.

As we now celebrate King Hussein's 50th birthday, we pledge full support for and adherence to his wise leadership and long-term policy aimed at progress and a prosperous future.

The government deemed it necessary to formulate the 1986 budget to complement draft projects and schemes in the first year of the forthcoming 1986-1990 development plan.

Preparation of the 1986 draft budget came at a time of global financial and economic recession characterised by fluctuations and inter-state differences. However, recent indications suggest a recovery and a return to economic stability.

Hopes for a way out of the international recession have been fuelled by the recent drop in the value of the dollar, a world-wide drop in interest rates and increased industrial production in developing countries.

Despite this, industrial countries have continued their attempts to curb imports to redress deficits in their balance of payments. This has negatively affected the economic climate and progress in developing countries and their trade exchange which in turn made it impossible for them to meet their ever-increasing debt repayments.

As a result, Arab countries and mainly the oil-exporting states, suffered either directly or indirectly from the decreasing global demand for oil and the drop in its price. One major effect on the Arab nation was the on-going Iraq-Iraq war which entered its sixth year.

The main features of the 1986 fiscal budget:

Item	Estimated for 1986 (JD million)	Increase (Percentage)
Budget REVENUES	923.7	12.8
Local revenues	787.9	—
Financial aid	497.9	14.6
Repayment of loans and interest	253.0	29.8
EXPENDITURE	825.5	218.0
Current expenditure	563.8	4.0
Capital expenditure	261.7	43.0
Development loans and aid	98.2	4.7

The progress of the Jordanian economy was not only affected by economic storms from abroad but also by the Kingdom's location on the confrontation line with Israel and Jordan's deep commitment to the central Arab case of Palestine. This fact imposes increasing burdens on the Kingdom in order to defend the Arabs and their identity on one side and to help Palestinians in their steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories against the arbitrary and oppressive Israeli measures which aim to evict them from their homeland.

A second factor is Jordan's meagre resources compared with the Kingdom's ambitions and responsibilities in order to make a qualitative jump the country is looking forward to achieving.

Despite the mentioned facts, and as a result of Jordan's open-door economic policy on both the international and pan-Arab arenas, the Kingdom has managed to buffer most of the international and regional fluctuations and to absorb the shocks of the economic situation through its sound national economy and its flexibility.

Initial statistics show that average growth in the Gross National Product (GNP) in real terms is expected to be 5 per cent for 1985. At a time when imports were at the same level of 1984, exports increased 10 per cent over 1984 figures which reflected positively on this year's trade balance.

The deficit in 1985's balance of payments was due to a decrease in official remittances while Jordanian expatriates' remittances maintained the levels of previous years. The Jordanian Dinar also kept a stable exchange rate at a time when many international currencies weakened.

The government managed to reduce its general expenditures to

the lowest degree and also managed to increase in internal revenues over those of 1984. Both the government and the public worked together to make remarkable achievements at a time when most Arab countries did not meet their financial commitments to the Kingdom as agreed at 1978 Baghdad summit.

Despite the positive impacts on the national economy, the labour market has been affected by regional and national circumstances which led to increasing unemployment.

Allow me to outline the main objectives and bases which the government adopted in formulating its 1986 draft project.

— Supporting the Armed Forces, Public Security Department and the Civil Defence and the continuity of the People's Army programmes.

— Continuing to confront Israeli measures which aim to Judaize Arab land and to work on supporting Palestinian residents in the West Bank and Gaza Strip to encourage them to remain on their land.

— Promoting pan-Arab economic integration, one of the pillars of Arab solidarity.

— Maintaining Jordan's international

credibility by meeting financial commitments on time.

— Considering the balance between both producing and service fields and to achieve the highest possibilities of self dependence in terms of internal requirements. The expansion of external marketing of national products in order to bridge the deficit in the trade balance.

— Giving the private sector equal opportunities and encouraging the principle of individual initiatives in order for it to take its part in development and to contribute to the economy.

— The completion of infrastructure projects and a stress on equal distribution of benefits amongst all sectors and to combat poverty wherever it is found. Achieving a balance between recurrent expenditure and national revenues through rationalisation of general spending and developing means of collecting national revenues.

Economic developments on the national, regional and international fronts have forced us to adapt to the new situation. The government has therefore identified the major impediments facing the economy and has taken proper measures, some of which were adopted to tackle pressing and current problems and the others were initiated to amend organisational and financial legislation in order to arrive at grass-root solutions with a view to moving from the adaptation stage to prosperity.

Because of the country's stability and flexible economic policies, Jordan enjoys a suitable investment climate to develop national assets. This situation is also adequate regarding expatriates' remittances, regional and international investments to be used in feasible projects which commensurate with social and economic objectives. The Kingdom also has a solid infrastructure as a regional centre — entrepot — feeding the region with trained manpower and expertise.

King Hussein thanks citizens

(Continued from page 1)

faces of children, the decorations, the celebrations and the beautiful face of Jordan on the occasion.

The birthday occasion was a station for him to stop and to take stock of what he had done and the work he has completed, he said. But the affection he received from the people saved him this task because he discovered that he was following the sound course. This, he

said, has granted him further confidence in the future.

The King said he wished he could meet every member of the Jordanian family not only to express his gratitude but also to renew the pledge that he would go along with them in firm and serious and productive march for developing the country and to work for them and with them for liberating Jerusalem, the holy places and to serve God and future generations.

'Jordan seeks Syrian role'

(Continued from page 1)

night. Mr. Murphy said on Tuesday he was pleased that Israel and Egypt have resumed negotiations over a border dispute and hoped the talks would produce results.

Mr. Murphy, speaking to reporters after meeting Peres Tuesday night said: "We are pleased to hear the Israeli team is discussing the issue of Taba with the Egyptian team. We hope for good results."

Peres' spokesman Uri Savir said the United States and Israel agreed during the 90-minute meeting that they would pursue efforts through "quiet contacts" to launch peace negotiations "in an international framework." Savir refused to answer questions.

Mr. Murphy told Peres that Jordan was still committed to launching peace talks. Savir said.

Asked about the status of peace efforts, Mr. Murphy said: "We are still working on it."

Egypt urges conference

At the United Nations, Egypt on Tuesday made a new call for a Middle East peace conference with the participation of the PLO, leading to Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories.

"This conference will also lead to the reaffirmation of the right of existence of all parties in the area, including Israel," Egyptian U.N. representative Ahmad Khalil said.

Taking part in the General Assembly's annual debate on the question of Palestine, Mr. Khalil said Egypt believed the most appropriate framework for a peace settlement was an international conference with the participation on an equal footing of all parties, including the PLO.

'Attacks should have approval'

(Continued from page 1)

they understand that operations outside the occupied territories will inflict damage on their cause.

He said, however, that the PLO was not responsible for acts by "renegade groups which are controlled by certain Arab countries."

The PLO leadership is hopeful of starting a dialogue among all Palestinian factions to restore the unity of the PLO.

The PLO Central Council, in its Baghdad meetings, issued an appeal for the unity of all Palestinian factions.

Mr. Wazir said the appeal was directed at all Palestinian factions, including Fatah rebels led by Colonel Abu Musa.

This move indicated a shift in the Fatah position vis-a-vis Palestinian factions which fought against Mr. Arafat and his followers in the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli in late 1983.

In similar previous appeals the PLO leadership refused to deal with the Fatah rebels and their

supporters and focused its attention on factions which remained neutral during the Tripoli battles.

These factions, seen as following an independent line without Syrian influence, are the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), the Palestinian Communist Party and the Damascus-based wing of the PLF led by Tala'at Yacoub.

These factions, which are not working in unison since the PFLP joined the Palestinian National Salvation Front last March, have asked for the abrogation of the Feb. 11 agreement between Jordan and the PLO as a precondition for settling differences with the PLO leadership.

They appear to take a softer stand, however, on the issue of Mr. Arafat's leadership.

The PFLP has abandoned its demand for the removal of Mr. Arafat from the leadership and said that any change in the PLO leadership should be done through the legitimate framework of the PLO.



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The Chairman of the Board of Governors of St. Aldates College, Oxford, is arriving from England to give personal advice to students wishing to obtain entry to a British University or to make a career in one of the major Professions, including Law.

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CENTRAL TENDER No. 152/85

Construction of the Compulsory Schools/ The Sixth Education Project.

The contractors who had been qualified previously for the six education project and willing to participate in the following bid are requested to get bid documents from the project directorate, Ministry of Education from 30.11.1985 with the following conditions:

1. The six education project is partially financed by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and the compulsory schools were divided into ten groups and this tender buildings constitute the 3rd group.
2. Description of the announced tender: No 152/85 which include the construction of compulsory schools at the following sites: South square (Tafilah), Ain Al-Bida, Qadesia with an area of 12,000m².
3. Prices of the documents and tender bond as follow:

Tender No	Price	Tender Bond
152/85	JD 250	JD 50,000

4. Last date for receiving copy of tender is 11.1.1986.
5. Last date of submission of offers is 11 O'clock 19.1.1986 at the Department of Government Tender Directorate.

Chairman of the Central Committee
Director of the Government
Tendering Directorate

NOTICE

AQABA RAILWAY CORPORATION SUPPLY OF A HIGH CAPACITY DIESEL POWERED BREAKDOWN CRANE INVITATION FOR TENDER No. 17/85

Aqaba Railway Corporation invites sealed tender for design, construction, supply and delivery including testing and commissioning of a 120 tonnes to 180 tonnes capacity diesel powered road or road-cum-rail breakdown crane to be used mainly for clearing operations.

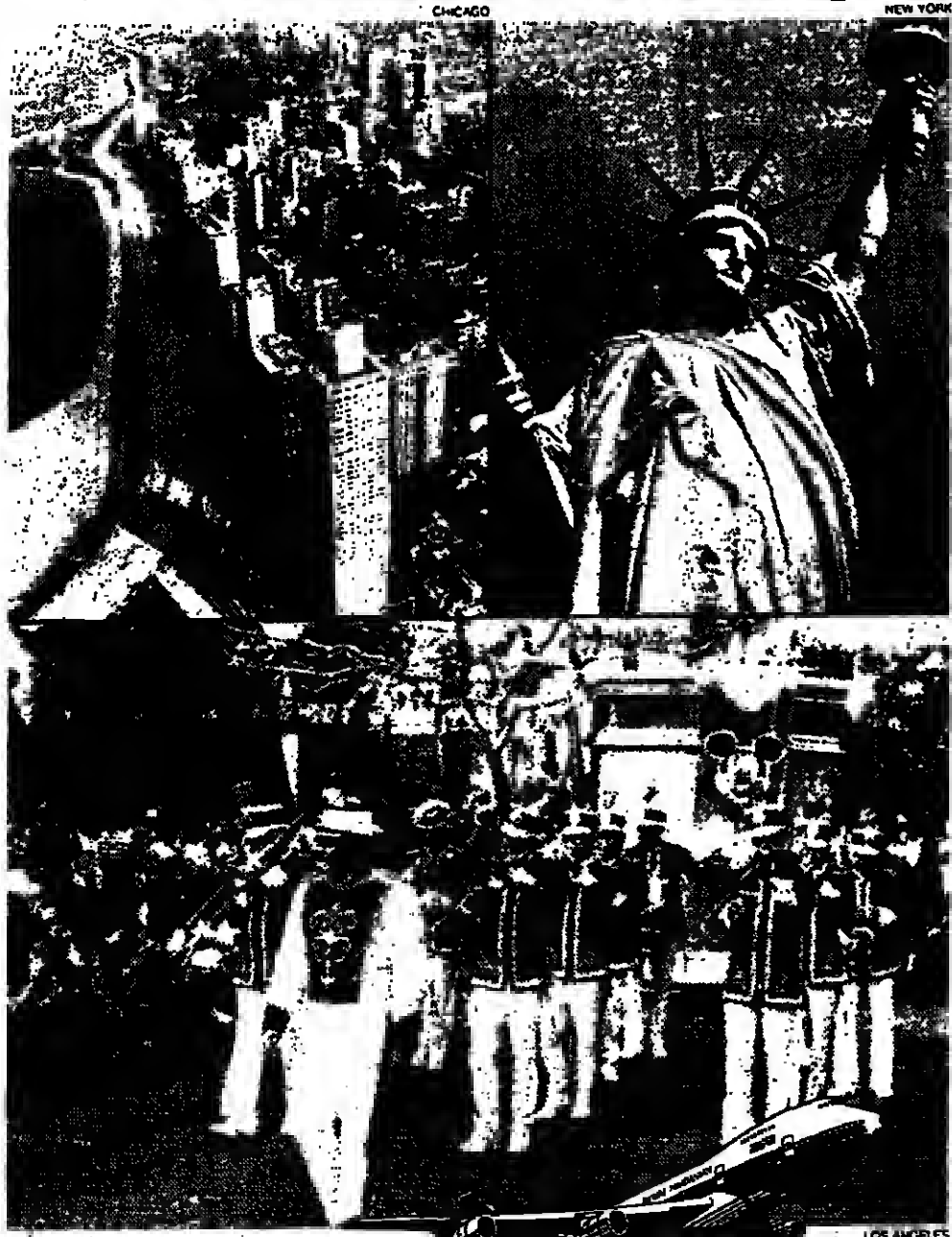
The supply of the breakdown crane including spares and accessories is to be financed by the tenderers.

Interested parties may obtain further information, if required, from the office of Aqaba Railway Corporation, P.O. Box 50, Ma'an, Jordan (Telex No. 62225 ARC JO, Telephone 32114/32234, Ma'an) after purchasing the Tender Documents obtainable from the corporation's office at Ma'an or ARC's representative in liaison office in Ministry of Transport, Amman, upon payment of a non-refundable fee of JD 120/-

All tenders must be accompanied by a tender bond of 5% of the bid value. The sealed tenders must be handed over to the chief clerk of ARC's office at Ma'an on or before 12 O'clock on 24th February 1986.

Mardi Qatamin,
Director General.

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Scots stave off Australia, gain last berth in Mexico

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Scotland held on for a 0-0 draw with Australia at Olympic Park here Wednesday night to become the 24th and final team to qualify for the World Cup soccer finals in Mexico next year.

The Australians, aiming to qualify for the finals for only the second time, dominated the first half with surprisingly authoritative attacks that stretched the Scottish defence.

The Scots stood firm, however, and qualified by virtue of their 2-0 victory in the first leg at Hampden Park, Glasgow, last month.

The Australians, known as "the Socceroos," had by far the better of the play but the part-timers' finishing let them down time after time.

With Aberdeen pair Willie Miller and Alex McLeish resolute in central defence, most of Australia's attacks had to be directed down the flanks.

When the Aussies did penetrate, Jim Leighton was in superb form in goal.

Australia was led by Scottish-born midfielder Kenny Murphy, who dominated the midfield for the first 60 minutes before tiring, while forward Jimmy Patikas frequently threatened the Scots with his pace.

A crowd of 30,000, many of them members of Australia's large

Scottish immigrant community, was largely well behaved, although sporadic fights broke out and two flares were thrown, one of which landed on the pitch.

The Australians came up with the best attacking move of the match after 22 minutes.

Striker David Mitchell, formerly with Scottish club Glasgow Rangers, displayed some exquisite skills down the right wing and his pinpoint cross was headed goalwards by captain John Kosmina, only for Leighton to parry the ball away.

With Frank McAvennie and David Speedie full of pace, the Australians always had to be cautious at the back and midfielder Paul McStay also was dangerous, as he illustrated with a shot on the run that forced a fine save from Australian goalkeeper Terry Greedy in the 25th minute.

Ten minutes later McStay pushed a ball across the face of the goal, but no-one was on hand to steer it home.

Patikas had two chances early in the second half. First Leighton saved a long range drive and then

his fellow forwards failed to capitalise on his low cross that flew across the penalty area.

The Scots replied with a cleverly worked free-kick in the 60th minute that ended with McAvennie chipping the ball onto the roof of the net.

Three minutes later the lumbering Kosmina squandered another Australian opportunity but it was again the Aussies who carved out two more chances late in the match.

First substitute Zarko Odzakov forced a save from Leighton from 40 meters out and then Patikas beat three defenders in a brilliant run but shot lamely wide.

Australian coach Frank Arok, dubbed "Mad Dog" by the Scottish press, was distressed by his team's poor shooting.

"We can't be happy when Australia attacks for 60 to 70 minutes and can't put away one single goal," he said.

"The Scotland keeper was fantastic and made one save from Kosmina which was probably the turning point of the whole game."

"I'm very proud of the whole team because they finally proved that we're not just kickers but can create chances."

"Ken Murphy was an absolute champion and I don't think anyone, even in the Scottish team, played like he did."

Argentinos show respect, but not fear of Juventus

TOKYO (AP) — The South American Club Soccer Champions Argentinos Juniors arrived in Tokyo Tuesday, saying "we came to win" against favoured Juventus of Italy, the European Club Champions, in the Toyota Cup match next Sunday.

At a news conference after the team's 32-hour flight from Buenos Aires, Argentinos coach Jose Yudica said, "It is true that Juventus is a great team, a strong team. But we came to win. Please wait for the results after the 90 minutes."

On its way to the World Club Championships in Tokyo's National Stadium, Argentinos edged America of Cali, Colombia, on penalties 5-4 on Oct. 24 following a 1-1 tie after regulation and extra time and won the Libertadores Cup for the top soccer club in South America.

Juventus, based in Turin, won the European Cup of Champions in May in a riot-marred match in Brussels against Liverpool of England. One of the worst soccer disasters in history, the rioting in the stands at Heysel Stadium left 39 fans, mostly Italians, dead.

Sunday's match will be televised to about 50 nations. 30 of them live, organisers said. A crowd of 62,000 people in Tokyo and as many as 450 million television viewers are expected to watch the game, with the kickoff scheduled for noon (0300 GMT) Sunday.

The game will decide if the Turin eleven, centering around French virtuoso Michel Platini, can become the first European

team to take home the Toyota Cup. South American teams have a five-year winning streak in the competition.

Since 1980, when the home-and-away competition between continental club champions was changed to a one-game match in neutral Japan, South American teams have won each time.

Paced by Platini, Danish striker Michael Laudrup and Italian international star Aldo Serena, Juventus is currently headed for an unprecedented 22nd Italian league victory with nine victories against one loss and a tie.

The brilliant performance by Juventus this season came despite the jettisoning of ace Paolo Rossi, the top goal getter in the 1982 World Cup in Spain. Polish striker Zbigniew Boniek, and veteran playmaker Marco Tardelli, "Argentinos Juniors will play offensive soccer," Yudica said. "We know about Platini but we are not going to assign anybody to mark him."

Argentinos' play centers around veteran fullback Jorge Olguin, 32, midfielder Sergio Batista, 22, and young striker Claudio Borghi, 21. Batista and Borghi have been selected to play on the national team in next year's World Cup in Mexico City.

Borghi, who scored six goals in the Libertadores tournament, said, "It is a dream to play in a game where there is so much attention and also against great players like Platini. It will be a good experience."

Morocco's winning combination

By Charles Lambell
Rabat

RABAT — There is a military unit in Morocco where the captain is a sergeant, some of his sharpshooters are officers and everyone is commanded by a Brazilian civilian.

The mixture has proved explosive, and the Moroccan Royal Armed Forces soccer team has chalked up victory after victory on distant African battlefields this year.

Now they are strongly favoured to bring back the African Champions' Cup to Morocco for the first time after handing out a 5-2 drubbing to Zaire's AS Bilima in the first leg of the final in Rabat last weekend.

The Armed Forces may be newcomers to the top flight of African soccer, but they have been dug in at the top of the Moroccan table for many years.

Founded in 1959 at the instigation of King Hassan, who was then the crown prince, they won the second division title and the cup in their first season.

They have now been crowned champions nine times and their name has been inscribed twice on the cup.

King Hassan wanted the team to be an inspiration to other Moroccan sportsmen by their dedication to the game and he brought in Frenchman Guy Cluseau to coach them.

Cluseau also guided the Moroccan national side to the 1970 Mexico World Cup Finals. The Moroccans will go back to Mexico next year as one of Africa's two

representatives in the World Cup Finals under the Armed Forces' present coach, Brazilian Jose Faria.

Faria, formerly of Rio de Janeiro club Fluminense, is set to complete a unique treble if Armed Forces win the Champions' Cup as he has also guided the Moroccan squad to the African Nations' Cup finals in Cairo next March.

The Armed Forces original goalkeeper is no longer a soccer star. He went on to win other stars as general Hosni Ben Slimane, commander of the para-military gendarmerie.

Ben Slimane, then fresh out of the French military academy of Saint Cyr and a high jump champion, later became the first director of the Royal Armed Forces sports centre.

All the players but one are now soldiers. The exception is star midfielder and chief tactician Mohammed "Cannonball" Timoumi, whose parents work at the royal palace.

They train in the morning as footballers and in the afternoon to become sport instructors.

Several players are officer cadets, including internationals Saad Dahane and Abdelmajid Lemrissi. But on the pitch they take their orders from the captain, quartermaster sergeant "Anmati"

Hamdi from the gendarmerie, a 15-year veteran of the team.

Major Ahmed Akkari, the present director of the sports centre, says the strength of Armed Forces lies in their organisation and the depth of talent they can call on.

Akkari, speaking against a backdrop of hundreds of trophies, cups and club pennants, said they could choose from a reservoir of 32 players, a dozen of whom have international experience.

This wealth of players allows Faria to rest his number one team and still line up a second team good enough to win away league matches.

Several key players, such as Hamdi, Dahane and Abdelmajid Akkari, have graduated from junior teams and others were recruited from rival army teams.

Because they are soldiers, the players are expected to show more discipline, punctuality at training and to live an exemplary life, Akkari said.

They live well. They have colour televisions, video recorders and washing machines in homes provided by the army. But they do not live in luxury.

They are considered amateurs and do not get automatic extra payment for a win. But they do get the occasional financial reward.

Iraq plans training tour prior to Mexico

By Subhy Haddad
Rabat

BAGHDAD — Iraq plans a training stint in Europe or South America for its World Cup soccer squad prior to the Mexico City finals next summer, a senior sports official said Tuesday.

Uday Saddam Hussein, chairman of the Iraqi Soccer Federation and eldest son of Iraq's former president, told Reuters:

"Our team will enter the training camp set for them in Mexico in April, one month after the end of the local soccer championships."

He said training spells in Europe, Argentina or Brazil had also been considered and a decision was expected shortly favouring Brazil as the best of these options.

Iraq beat Syria 3-1 in the second leg of their qualifier in Taif, Saudi Arabia last Friday to secure their place amongst next year's finalists. Uday Hussein Tuesday praised

the four-man team of Brazilian coaches, led by Jurge Vieira, who prepared the Iraqis for Friday's match.

He said that a training session in Brazil would match the Iraqis against strong local teams, before they went on to the Mexico camp. "Brazil's climate strikes a medium between Iraq and Mexico," he explained.

Early exit is McEnroe's reward for an endless string of complaints

BELOURNE, Australia (AP) — Yugoslav Slobodan "Bobo" Zivjovic Wednesday ended John McEnroe's ambition of winning a grand slam tournament in 1985 and also cost the American tennis star more than \$250,000.

Zivjovic scored a sensational 2-6, 6-3, 1-6, 6-4, 6-0 quarterfinal victory over the 26-year-old New Yorker in the \$1.5 million Australian Open Tennis Championships at Kooyong.

The loss ended McEnroe's chances of catching Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia at the top of Nabisco Grand Prix standings, costing McEnroe \$250,000 from the bonus pool.

It also ended his hopes of regaining the world no. 1 spot from Lendl and a further \$1,000 after he was fined for failing to attend the post-match press conference. It was McEnroe's third fine of what has proved to be a troubled

tournament for him — and remains one that he has never won.

McEnroe was petulant in the end and was booed and jeered by the crowd when he left court hurriedly at the end of the three-hour thriller.

He was involved in a number of incidents during the match and shouted at both his opponent and tournament referee Peter Benger.

Zivjovic, and unseeded 22-year-old from Belgrade who flits between residences in Florida and West Germany, will face defending champion Mats Wilander of Sweden — the player he beat in the first round at Wimbledon this year — in Friday's semifinals.

Wilander, the third seed, who is aiming for his third consecutive Australian title, cruised into the semifinals with a straightforward 6-3, 7-5, 6-2 triumph over sixth-seeded American Johan Kriek, champion at Kooyong in 1981 and 1982.

Top-seed Lendl, who is aiming to win the tournament for the first time, also won Wednesday.

McEnroe's early exit is a reward for an endless string of complaints

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McEnroe's early exit is a reward for an endless string of complaints

McEnroe's early exit is a reward for an endless string of complaints

THE Daily Crossword by James A. Phyllis Barrick

ACROSS
1 Lacuna
5 "Golden Boy" playwright
10 12, name
14 Ox
15 Nonsense of a helmet
16 Teasdale
17 52 A.G.
20 Shelter
21 Togue
22 Baffle
23 Short stops
24 Blue-pannel
25 Ridiculous
26 Cross
32 Social group
33 Bottle
34 "Mutual Friend"
35 Vetch seed
36 Hb. letter
37 Very small distance
38 Common contraction
39 Factory
40 Uruguay
41 Face
42 Hit hard
43 Crostic
46 Clear square
48 Marler
49 Eloc. unit
50 17 A
51 Fr. branch
52 Fr. department
53 Naturalness
54 —poly
61 Time of year
62 Server

DOWN
1 Part of ancient Europe
2 Hathaway
3 Kind of bonnet
4 — Clements
5 Forth
6 Nodded post
7 Masc. title
8 Signa's follower
9 Haphazard
10 Steward
11 Ruled platform
12 Commedia
13 Ruled great
14 Windy City
15 airport
16 Adress
17 Solid
18 Burst
19 Old Gr.
20 dialect
21 Approving cry
22 Temperance
23 Stoke-on—
24 Dinner item
25 Retinue
26 Went wrong
27 Social groups
28 Believes
29 Nathan the
30 patriot
31 Green quartz
32 A dye
33 Like an omelet
34 Bulging vessel
45 Kind of job dish
46 Stimulus
47 Max. money
48 Mr. Roberts
50 Chinese gelatin
51 Flat-topped hill
52 Victim
54 Abbr. in recipes
55 Sun. talk
56 Capture

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SHASE GICE TISIT
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AGAINST ALL ODDS (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

Cinema **EL-HUSSEIN** Tel: 22117
RETURN OF THE SECRET RIVALS (Colour)
Performances: 12-3 - 5:30-8

Cinema **Philadelphia** Tel: 24144-34149
MY TUTOR (Colour)
Shows at: 3:30/6:30/10:15

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 22198
MARD (Colour)
Performances: 12-3-6:30-8

Cinema **OPERA** Tel: 678973
LOSIN' IT (Colour)
Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30
Abdali, behind Alfa cinema

Economy

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One sterling	1.4840/50	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3888/93	Canadian dollars
	2.5210/20	Dutch guilders
	2.8360/75	Swiss francs
	2.1020/30	Belgian francs
	51.18/23	French francs
	7.6850/900	Italian lire
	1718/1719	Japanese yen
	203.15/25	Swedish crowns
	7.6530/80	Norwegian crowns
	7.5980/6030	Danish crowns
	9.1185/235	U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	324.30/324.80	

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The stock market drifted lower and at 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 index was 13.5 down at 1,402.1. The former opening following Tuesday's selective rally sparked by GEC's bid for Plessey failed to attract much interest and share prices drifted throughout the session, dealers said. Plessey was unchanged at 174p after 178 while GEC fell 10p to 176. The market is awaiting Plessey's response to the bid. Banks, insurance and oil declined but government bonds, gold shares and north Americans were higher. BOC closed 8p lower at 307 and Avon Rubber ended 18p down at 310, both after full-year results. Habitat Mothercare eased 10p to 504 and British Home Stores was 2p off at 420 having touched 432 on rumours, later denied, that Sears may make a counter bid. Royal Bank of Scotland was 10p down at 274 after Lloyds Bank said it sold its entire holding of 46.27 million shares in the company at 270p per share. Lloyds was 2p off at 477. Bowater was 7p up at 340 after news Hanson Trust had increased its stake in the company to 10 per cent. ICI was 2p off at 709, Grand Met lost 13p to 363 but Hawker Siddeley rose 12p to 439 following demand after a broker's lunch, dealers said.

Jordan to accelerate insurance mergers

By Ibrahim Noori

AMMAN (R) — Jordan will introduce new, tough insurance regulations shortly which officials say will force several firms to merge or quit the crowded insurance market.

The measures, which force firms to boost their capital and impose a minimum premium income, have been welcomed as necessary for the market, where more than 30 firms compete for a slice of an annual turnover of \$65 million.

Mr. Radi Suleiman Ibrahim, head of the industry ministry's insurance department, said he expected nearly half the firms to merge or wind up when the measures became law early next year.

"Two large and strong insurance firms are better than 15. We need quality, not quantity," he told Reuters in an interview.

Mr. Ibrahim Al Ayyed, president of the Association of Jordanian Insurance Companies, said he hoped the government action would curb what he called "harmful competition" in a market which has also been hurt by a world-wide recession.

"It is a very important decision, which will also help business in general," Mr. Hashem Sabagh, general manager of the Amman Financial Market, Jordan's official stock exchange, said.

The regulations would put teeth in a year-old law which did not explicitly demand mergers but required minimum paid capital for

insurance firms to be raised to 600,000 dinars (\$1.6 million) by end-1986 from 100,000 dinars (\$270,000). Only 10 Jordanian firms have capital exceeding the minimum.

The law also asked the 11 foreign insurance operations in Jordan — three Lebanese, two American and one each from India, Iran, Egypt, Kuwait, France and Britain — to deposit 400,000 dinars (\$1.1 million) to be regarded as capital.

Poor business led two insurance firms to merge earlier this year, and Mr. Ibrahim said four others were taking similar steps. Latest official figures show premium income in 1983 totalled 24 million dinars (\$64.9 million), but 12.6 million dinars (\$34 million) of claims were paid.

Last year, 12 companies made little or no profit, he said. Under the new rules, a firm's annual underwritings must average one million dinars (\$2.7 million) in 1986 and 1.2 million dinars (\$3.2 million) in 1987 and 1988.

Mr. Ibrahim said the government also intended to set up a national reinsurance company with a capital of three million dinars (\$8.1 million).

About 90 per cent of the reinsurance business was being conducted abroad, he said. Steps will also be taken to share insurance business of the government and major firms among all Jordanian firms, instead of just one or two as at present, he said.

EC agrees modest reforms

LUXEMBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) leaders have agreed on modest reforms of the group's founding 1957 Treaty of Rome in a bid to streamline its cumbersome operations and move towards greater integration.

Luxembourg Prime Minister Jacques Santer, who presided over two days of tough summit talks, told a news conference shortly after it ended early Wednesday that the agreement was a step forward for the Community.

Several states have expressed reservations about some of the reforms agreed and Denmark's minority government is unable to endorse them before they are approved by parliament.

But Mr. Santer said he was confident the reservations would be lifted at the next meeting of EC foreign ministers in Brussels on Dec. 16, allowing the 10 states and future members Spain and Portugal to sign the agreement before the end of the year.

If not, he hoped the treaty amendments and a separate new treaty for foreign policy coordination would be signed early in the new year.

European Commission President Jacques Delors said: "Tonight everybody who belongs to Europe has reason to be satisfied."

Most other participants expressed satisfaction over the summit results, although several agreed with French President Francois Mitterrand that it had not lived up to their hopes for greater integration.

But Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi spoke of open hostility that faced every new attempt to achieve concrete European cooperation.

He criticised the summit in particular for "refusing to recognise a more significant role for the European Parliament," a reference to its decision to expand the limited powers of the assembly while keeping the final say for governments.

He said his country would only endorse the agreement if it is approved by the European Parliament, which has demanded much wider European union and a significant increase in its powers. It is due to discuss the summit results on Dec. 11.

In marked contrast, Danish Prime Minister Poul Schluter des-

cribed the summit's results as "satisfactory."

"Not one tiny bit of sovereignty has been lost," he said, expressing particular satisfaction at the summit's failure to agree French ideas for a "European union" which would have caused problems for Danes unhappy with further integration.

Diplomats said the most significant changes agreed on would restrict member governments' ability to veto decisions, a right often blamed for the virtual paralysis in EC decision-making.

The move is aimed at dismantling barriers to the free movement of goods, services, capital and labour across EC borders by a new target date of 1992.

The changes also bring monetary affairs, technology and the environment under the EC treaty.

The 12 leaders also agreed at the end of Wednesday 14-hour session to sign a separate treaty for foreign policy cooperation as a first step towards developing a common foreign policy for the group.

Mr. Mitterrand said French ideas for putting the two treaties under the single authority of EC summits and renaming them councils of European union were not accepted. He said the proposal would be

discussed by EC foreign ministers when they meet next in Brussels on Dec. 16.

The French president said he was happy with the accord although it did not go as far as he would have wished. "We will continue our struggle for a more integrated Europe," he added.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, who opposed the idea of treaty reform, said Wednesday's reforms could have been accomplished without treaty change but Britain had gone along with them because its partners wanted such change.

The British leader described the outcome of the talks as "modest," saying that the inclusion of monetary issues under the treaty "does not represent anything new at all."

She said the clause described what was already happening, a reference to the six-year-old European Monetary System (EMS) and the European Currency Unit (ECU), the EC's composite currency.

Diplomats said several points as well as the proposed wider role for the summit were still at issue and would be tackled by the foreign ministers later this month.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl told a news conference: "We have opened the door wide to European development."

Iran agrees to resume oil supplies to Syria

TEHRAN (R) — Iran will resume oil supplies to Syria as part of a trade package agreed during a visit here by a high-ranking Syrian delegation led by Prime Minister Abdul Rauf Al Kasbi, diplomatic sources said Wednesday.

The Syrian team, the most senior to come from Damascus since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution, returned home Tuesday night with both sides expressing satisfaction over the three-day visit.

A joint communiqué and a letter of understanding covering economic, trade and cultural relations contained no surprises but showed a spirit of compromise, diplomatic sources said. Iran halted oil supplies to Syria two months ago after Syrian delays in payment and Iraqi air attacks on Iran's main Kharg Island oil export terminal in the northern Gulf.

The sources said supplies would resume shortly. The Iranian parliament in August approved the supply this year of six million tonnes of oil to Syria in return for Syria's support in Tehran's five-year-old war with Iraq.

Syria has already taken one million tonnes supplied free, and now will resume loading the rest at a \$2.50 discount, the sources said. A Syrian technical group has remained here to discuss trade details, which the sources said would include some harder elements.

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The navy Tuesday suspended the St. Louis-based company from receiving new military contracts for the second time this year after the firm and four past and present executives were indicted on Monday on charges of fraudulent billing.

General Dynamics, the third largest U.S. military contractor with \$6 billion a year in gov-

GCC, EC officials open trade talks on Friday

BAHRAIN (R) — Officials from the European Community (EC) and the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) will meet in Paris on Friday to promote trade relations, strained by a dispute over Gulf petrochemical exports.

A GCC statement, issued in Riyadh Wednesday and reported by the official Saudi Press Agency, said GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Bishara and his assistant for economic affairs, Sheikh Abdullah Juwaid, will attend the meeting.

Officials from the two sides last met in Luxembourg in October and agreed to start talks on trade, but apparently did not reach agreement on Gulf petrochemical sales to Europe.

Intermarkets upgrades techniques



AMMAN (J.T.) — Following the success of a meeting held in southern France in September for general and technical directors of the "Intermarkets advertising agency," Intermarkets organised a conference in November for directors of information media. The conference was attended by Intermarkets directors in Lebanon, Kuwait, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Jordan, North Yemen and Britain. The second conference, which was held in Dubai Nov. 6-8 reviewed latest developments in advertising techniques and the application of such techniques and studies on planning for future advertisement campaigns.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, DEC. 5, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You feel tied down to whatever specific plan of action you are trying to put into operation, and you feel that working out the details is not going as smoothly as you wish.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make sure you handle tasks at hand in a most precise way, be it at home or place of affairs.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) You want to have a good time but have to plan it carefully, if you are to get the right results.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Fundamental affairs need much care, especially where home and property are concerned. Avoid trouble of all kinds.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) It is important that you steer clear of stumbling blocks in the pathway of your progress. Use particular care in motion.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A good day to cut down on expenses instead of adding to them. Build up a little reserve. Don't consult with an expert today.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You may feel unhappy and need to work your way out of problems so that you can soon have clear sailing ahead.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) If you are conscientious in handling private worries, you will soon be rid of them. You can be happy in the company of the one you love.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have a good plan you want friends to assist you with, but they have their own duties to handle.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You have to be very careful in any career duties and safeguard your prestige. Don't anger a bigwig in any way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Go after the information you need about some new activity that means a great deal to you.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy at handling responsibilities and keeping promises made, even though somewhat boring.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Forget an unwise remark from a partner and you soon receive an apology. An outside situation can affect you.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have much ability at handling the problems of others and would be a cracker-jack trouble shooter. Teach to be constructive instead of permitting to criticize others at every opportunity. Religious training is very important here.

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, DEC. 6, 1985

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Despite some confusion by the use of your thoughtful actions and organizing ability, you can accomplish a great deal. Tonight is ideal for romance.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Get busy keeping promises you have made in the morning, and avoid bigwigs and have meetings with associates.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Early plan fun hours with friends and then handle problems with fellow workers. Be willing to handle your mate's interests.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Give more attention to whatever is important within your home, and later you can get out for recreation.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Steer clear of an outside partner who likes to criticize, and then study good literature.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Talk over monetary affairs with family in the morning, and later you can be with good friends and have a fine time.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't have fun with friends in the morning, and get busy handling desk work, and then you can handle practical work ahead of you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Get financial advice from an expert in the morning, and later you can go after personal aims and gain them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You can easily get good advice from a wise friend instead of a newcomer, and then gain necessary data and finest aims.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) A bigwig can give backing privately in the morning, and then later you can be at amusements.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Your ideas may not be very good in the morning, but a new friend just introduced to you can be very helpful.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) If you talk over some emotional matter with an expert, you will get good results. Be very enthused.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Plan how to handle some long-range problem and then get busy with holiday shopping. Be very particular about what you buy.

U.S., Turkey sign treaty

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States and Turkey have signed a treaty to encourage bilateral private investment as part of President Ronald Reagan's policy of helping business play a bigger role in world economic development.

The pact, which must be ratified by the Senate, covers most-favoured nation treatment for investors, compensation if assets are nationalised, transfer of capital and profits, and methods for the settlement of international disputes.

Similar treaties have been reached with Egypt, Panama, Haiti, Senegal, Zaire and Morocco.

Riyadh cuts work visas

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia has issued 200,000 fewer work visas during the Hijri year 1405 than the previous year, the deputy minister of interior, Sheikh Ibrahim Al Awaji was quoted as saying Tuesday.

The Muslim lunar calendar year 1405 corresponded to Sept. 25, 1984, to Sept. 34, 1985.

Sheikh Al Awaji did not say what the total number of visas is at the moment, in the statements published in the English-language newspaper Saudi Gazette.

He said that the number of expatriates in Saudi Arabia is declining faster than the number of applications for work visas because of a large number of expatriates leaving on exit-only visas.

Expatriate workers can only enter Saudi Arabia with a Saudi citizen as a "sponsor."

Expatriates currently make up most of the labour force in the oil-rich kingdom, and are roughly estimated at three million.

The Saudi population is estimated at about 11 million. Westerners make up the smallest but generally highest paid sector of the expatriate force. Arabs, Indians, Pakistanis and Filipinos are the largest categories of expatriate workers.

GEC bids for Plessey

LONDON (R) — Britain's biggest electronics firm, General Electric Company (GEC), made a £1.2 billion (\$1.8 billion) bid Tuesday for fellow electronics maker Plessey. GEC said in a statement that it had proposed a tie-up with Plessey to compete more effectively with international rivals, and to advance "the British presence technologically and commercially to the world at large."

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Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



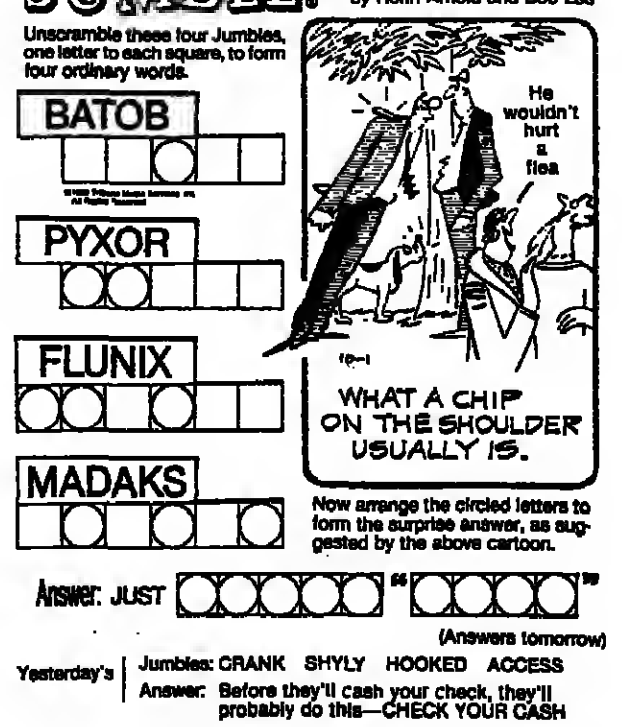
Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF



JUMBLE



Lawyers group reports increased human rights abuse in the Philippines

NEW YORK (R) — Killings, disappearances and torture have become daily occurrences throughout the Philippines, according to a report Wednesday by the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, a U.S. public interest law group.

In the first 10 months of this year, 600 disappearances were documented by a domestic monitoring group, the report said. Another 600 political prisoners remain in prison, and "hundreds of political killings of civilian non-combatants were carried out by the Philippine Armed Forces or by forces close to the military."

"While government-sanctioned violence is widespread," it concluded, "prime targets of official retaliation appear to be journalists, church workers, civil rights lawyers and others who are attempting to defend basic human rights or simply to monitor their violation."

In support of its conclusions, the committee's 200-page report cited dozens of cases of alleged abuse and murder.

It also said some responsibility for improving conditions rests with the U.S. government. Without directly criticizing the Reagan administration, it implies that any criticism of the rule of President Ferdinand Marcos by Washington is diluted by continued U.S. financial aid.

The report is based on three visits to the Philippines by representatives in the past year and interviews with more than 100 vic-

ups representing Filipinos and Americans denounced the verdict at a press conference attended by Senator John Kerry and demanded an end to U.S. military aid.

"This blatant display of arrogance and abuse of power only shows that under Marcos there can be no justice. Under Marcos there can be no freedom. Under Marcos there can be no democracy," said Benjamin Maynigo, a spokesman for the U.S.-based Movement for a Free Philippines.

Under U.S. and domestic pressure for military, economic and political reforms, Mr. Marcos brought forward from 1987 to February 1986, presidential elections which are expected to be a crucial referendum on his rule.

Congress and the Reagan administration have taken unusual steps to push Mr. Marcos to ensure the balloting is fair.

Sen. Kerry, a Massachusetts Democrat, said the seven-member team of election experts would be sponsored by the Washington-based Centre for Democracy and was put together with the support of Republican Richard Lugar of Indiana, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Dante Fascell of Florida, chairman of the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee.

The Centre is a private group established two years ago by Congress to promote democracy.

Harare to get more Soviet military aid

MOSEOW (R) — Zimbabwean Prime Minister Robert Mugabe said Wednesday that he and Kremlin leaders had discussed possible Soviet military aid for his country, to strengthen it against threats from South Africa.

He told a news conference that his talks in Moscow had brought the Soviet Union and Zimbabwe "very much closer."

Asked if military aid had been discussed in his sessions with Communist Party chief Mikhail Gorbachev and Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, Mr. Mugabe said:

"We talked about our own military capability and how we can strengthen ourselves in the face of

Thatcher soothes Irish anger over N. Ireland

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Wednesday acted to soothe Irish anger over a suggestion by her minister for Northern Ireland that the Anglo-Irish agreement on the province had effectively ruled out hope of a united Ireland.

Interviewed by British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) radio in Luxembourg, Mrs. Thatcher said that the province would remain part of Britain as long as the majority of the population wished.

Earlier, Northern Ireland Secretary Tom King drew a sharp rebuke from Irish Prime Minister Garret Fitzgerald for suggesting during a speech in Brussels that Dublin had effectively accepted that there would never be a united Ireland.

The goal of a united Ireland is written into the Irish constitution and Mr. Fitzgerald described the remarks as "singularly inappropriate and inaccurate."

In her interview, Mrs. Thatcher restated the terms of the agreement, which was signed last month and which gives Dublin a say in the affairs of Northern Ire-

Gas leak panics Delhi on Bhopal anniversary

NEW DELHI (R) — Gas leaking from a chemical factory triggered panic and injured 30 people in Delhi Wednesday, just one day after the first anniversary of the Bhopal disaster which killed 2,500.

Choking white sulphur dioxide fumes engulfed area where about 200,000 people live and work in the bustling Bazaar districts of the Indian capital's old walled city.

Shoppers raced for safety and motorists abandoned their cars in the narrow traffic-clogged streets in a panic rush to escape the fumes, which were not poisonous.

At least 30 people were taken to hospital suffering from breathlessness and violent coughing. None of the victims was in a serious condition but three were brought in unconscious, a hospital spokesman said.

The panic came only hours after India remembered the 2,500 killed and tens of thousands of people maimed a year ago when lethal methyl isocyanate gas leaked from the Union Carbide pesticide plant in the central city of Bhopal.

Calls from frightened residents jammed police and newspaper switchboards as thick, pungent fumes spread across north and central Delhi, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency reported.

Stalls closed in the busy central market area and police warned people to keep away.

PTI said city authorities had been preparing a mass evacuation of the area before the scare ended.

It said the gas escaped for 90 minutes after a 40-ton tank containing oleum overflowed and collapsed at the Shriram Foods And Fertiliser Factory. Oleum is a chemical used to make sulphuric acid.

Three company officials were arrested on charges of negligence, the agency said.

Delhi Lieutenant Governor H.L. Kapoor ordered an inquiry and the plant, which produces 150 tons of sulphuric acid a day, was closed until further notice.

Wednesday's leak came a day after at least 50 people were admitted to hospital in neighbouring Sri Lanka after chlorine gas leaked from a state-owned pesticides plant near Colombo.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Kidnapped Japanese heiress rescued

TOKYO (R) — Police rescued a kidnapped heiress after hearing her cry for help from the back of a car. Junko Toyoda, 24-year-old daughter of a textile magnate, faced reporters early Wednesday with sticking plaster on her left cheek and told of the Monday night abduction from her home near Osaka in western Japan. A few hours after being seized, she telephoned her mother with a fearful request for 50 million yen (\$250,000). A later call by the kidnapper was traced to a phone box not far from her home. Police said they rushed to the area and grew suspicious about a parked car. As they approached, Junko called for help. Police freed her and arrested the driver, a 43-year-old electrician.

Acupuncture can cure 300 diseases

PEKING (R) — Acupuncture, the ancient Chinese needle treatment, is now considered effective in curing encephalitis, schizophrenia, impotence and malaria, the New China News Agency said Wednesday. The agency said delegates to a conference in Wuhan had added these and other diseases to a list of more than 300 ailments which can be cured by acupuncture, traditionally used to ease back aches and as an anesthetic.

Police to go after paedophiles

MANILA (R) — Manila has set up special police teams to crack down on child prostitution, the official Philippine News Agency reported Wednesday. Anyone convicted of prostituting or sexually exploiting a person under 18 years of age can be sentenced to up to four years in jail under a new law which took effect this month. The move follows complaints from church groups and social workers about Manila's raunchy nightlife and the growing number of youngsters selling themselves to foreign tourists. Procurers and owners of massage parlours, hotels and night clubs who let minors into their establishments face fines and imprisonment. Under the new law, convicted foreigners will be deported after serving their sentence.

Police clamp down on school bullying

TOKYO (R) — A Tokyo police squad formed to combat a wave of bullying in schools said Wednesday it arrested 29 boys and girls last month. "The roots of bullying run deeper than we expected," a police spokesman said. Police reported cases of four girls kicking another in time to a children's song and a 13-year-old girl jumping 10 floors to her death after classmates in Tokyo tormented her. In the southern city of Kitakyushu, a 13-year-old boy set fire to his classmate's home last month after being hounded at school, police said.

Israel debates anti-pork bill

TEL AVIV (R) — A controversial bill that would make a Biblical injunction against swine a law in Israel passed its first reading in the Knesset (parliament). The vote was 44-22 with one abstention in the 120-member legislature on the preliminary stage to outlaw the sale of pork in all but non-Jewish areas, state radio reported. The ban was proposed by rabbi parliamentarians of small but powerful religious parties and supported by members of the right wing Likud Bloc and Prime Minister Shimon Peres' Labour Party, both coalition partners. When the bill was introduced last summer, Interior Minister Yitzhak Mordechai, one of nine rabbis in parliament, described pigs as "abominable and disgusting."

Thai coup trial adjourned to consider secrecy plea

BANGKOK (R) — The trial of former Prime Minister Pibulchan Chomman with 39 others on charges of inciting rebellion opened Wednesday and adjourned immediately to consider a prosecution request for it to be in secret.

Security was tight in and around the cramped criminal courtroom in the old quarter of Bangkok as the defendants, who all pleaded not guilty, were led in under heavy escort.

Prosecution lawyers said hearings should be behind closed doors because national security was involved.

Defence lawyers opposed the motion, saying the public had a right to know everything. They said state security would not be compromised and the closed-door request was made only to spare certain officials embarrassment.

The judge asked defence lawyers to state their objections in writing and adjourned the trial until Jan. 8.

The defendants are accused of involvement in a short-lived coup attempt against Prime Minister Pibulchan Chomman last Sept. 9 in which at least five people, including two foreign correspondents, were killed.

The reputed leader, former Col. Manoon Roopkhamorn who was also involved in a 1981 bid to topple Pibul, was allowed to quit the country to avoid further bloodshed and end the revolt. Col. Manoon is believed in West Germany and arrest warrants are out for him and nine others.

In recent weeks there has been widespread speculation, dismissed as rumour by military and government officials, that officers worried that they could be implicated in the failed revolt might make another attempt to seize power.

Since the 1932 revolution which abolished Thailand's absolute monarchy, there have been 15 coups or coup attempts. In the past, the military meted out punishment to erring members itself, traditionally showing leniency.

This time the trial is before a civilian court. The prosecution wants exemplary punishment to discourage future attempts and the accused face execution or life imprisonment if convicted.

Several prosecution witnesses, including Air Force Commander Air Chief Marshal Praphan Dhupataniya who said he was kidnapped by the rebels during the coup attempt, were at the court Wednesday but were not called to testify.

Shuttle returns to earth

EDWARDS AIR BASE, California (R) — The seven-member crew of the space shuttle Atlantis jubilantly declared their week-long flight and "sky high building company" a success after landing smoothly on a concrete runway in the rain-soaked Mojave Desert.

"It's great when you can go up and fly a spacecraft and never have to get the malfunction book out of its locker," mission Commander Brewster Shaw said after piloting the giant shuttle down to earth Tuesday.

The Atlantis crew took the unusual precaution of landing on a concrete runway instead of the desert sand at Edwards Air Force Base in central California because of rain during the past few days.

Nicknamed by National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) officials, the "sky high building company," astronaut Jerry Ross and Sheward Spring, wearing spacesuits instead of hardhats, did their construction work 300 kilometres above the earth. They spent several hours in space building aluminium pyramids, prototypes for a permanent U.S. space station planned for the 1990s.

Australia voices opposition to Wellington's anti-nuclear laws

CANBERRA (R) — Australia, New Zealand's closest ally, said Wednesday it was opposed to the Wellington government's draft legislation banning visits by nuclear-capable warships but would give the bill careful study.

Foreign Minister Bill Hayden said after long talks with New Zealand Deputy Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer that Canberra and Wellington had substantial differences on the proposed anti-nuclear law.

Mr. Palmer gave the Australian government a copy of the controversial bill which will put into law an anti-nuclear stand that has drastically reduced American defence cooperation with New Zealand.

The draft law is scheduled to be introduced to parliament by the Labour government later this month and become law in mid-1986.

Mr. Hayden said he had discussed possible considerations for Australia should New Zealand go ahead with the legislation but declined to outline them.

The meeting coincided with a warning by a senior U.S. diplomat that the United States would end all defence obligations to New Zealand if the bill became law.

Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Paul Wolfowitz said in a satellite television link-up with local journalists that Washington hoped Wellington could still be persuaded to reconsider.

Mr. Wolfowitz added, however, that the ANZUS defence treaty linking Australia, New Zealand and the United States would not be dismantled.

The 34-year-old ANZUS treaty, has been mothballed since February when New Zealand refused port access to a U.S. destroyer because Washington stood by its policy of not saying whether it carried nuclear warheads.

Mr. Palmer told reporters after the talks the new draft bill was not anti-ANZUS. "I think that ANZUS can survive the legislation if there is a will on the part of the United States that it shall survive," he said.

Mr. Palmer said a copy of the legislation would be delivered to the U.S. embassy in Wellington. His government expected responses from both Australia and the U.S., he said.

U.S. officials have already refused to discuss details of the bill, saying its principle was unacceptable.

Mr. Hayden reiterated Australia's opposition to the Lange government's nuclear ships policy. Visits by U.S. ships were essential for ANZUS, he said.

"I am not saying the treaty will be dismantled. I am saying I believe our defence obligations to New Zealand will be effectively terminated (when the law is passed)," Mr. Wolfowitz said.

"We don't intend to dismantle the ANZUS treaty," he said.

New Zealand Prime Minister David Lange has said Washington cannot abandon the legal obligations of the treaty without abandoning the treaty itself.

Mr. Wolfowitz said Washington had tried hard to avoid bullying New Zealand and had done nothing to encourage the disagreement.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

Edited by Herb Eisenberg

DISPLACED PERSONS
By Barbara Gordon

ACROSS
1 The one who...
2 Wildly enthusiastic...
3 Dwell number...
13 Petrified...
17 Dye, go...
18 Caravan...
20 Revolved...
21 Rounding...
22 Coats...
23 Sliver from...
24 Coloured...
26 Writer from...
28 Coloured...
29 General at...
30 Adjective...
31 Wash...
32 Felt...
34 Actress from...
35 Convinced from...
36 New York...
40 Growl on...
41 Younger...
42 — Rabbit...
43 Chopper...
44 Unusually...
45 — Prow...
46 Coloured...
48 Eng. weapon...
49 Set firmly...
50 Ditch...
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63 Laughing...
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Diagramless
17 X 19, by Larry Alexander

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1. Sleepy clerk in fiscal shop says she lost job just because of several "pink leaves."
2. The whole law of dining in. "Don't let good food go to waste!"
3. Water down's redheaded stream threatened to drown the little stream.
4. Wise owl eyes little boy in narrow boat, looks like home.

CRYPTOGRAMS

1. ALOMCTYK TALTXFXIE NLAF PCN OFASFKAI
KALT TX LG GFLEN LAJ TSTXLL TALTX
NELTX EL KSZ VCTI NFOVE ELTX
—By Alvin R. Lohr

2. ZMAAK OACH SWIM RTXY XM INRE EGCS
SMLXCP OCB PCY LYTHRYWPE OTAA
ELWPMH
—By Connie Rosenfeld

3. DGGI PETJHAGRY PJHWE HUWE JPUW BE
XPHT FI NOCEBCEKHEPPI YOWCATS BI
FHCZ DPEEGW
—By Marlene E. Adams

4. MFBXOZBI MUZEK MISTAKE CARK TAK
PLTCKUKE TEERK ALTOKEPE CD 2
EG
—By Ed Hoffmann